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TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL **DETAILS PAGE 9**



NIGELLA LAWSON

Once again, I'm not sending Christmas cards PAGE 16



III-tiES

My wedding present for **Ffion**

Suspended Glasgow Labour MP accused of election fraud



No. 66,075

Sarwar: in court today

AND JILL SHERMAN

A WARRANT for the arrest of Mohammed Sarwar, the suspended Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, was issued last night on charges of

election fraud.

Mr Sarwar, 44, the millionaire He triggered the Government's businessman who became Britain's first sleaze crisis in May when he first Muslim MP on May I, was due was suspended by the Labour Party to appear voluntarily today at smild allegations published by the Glasgow Sheriff Court.

News of the World that he had first Muslim MP on May I, was due to appear voluntarily today at Glasgow Sheriff Court.

The Crown Office said he was facing criminal charges relating to the late registration of voters, at tempting to pervert the course of justice and contraventions of the Representation of the People Act in

Mr Sarwar was interviewed by Strathclyde police last week after a seven-month inquiry. He had hoped to make his maiden speech in the House of Commons this Friday. Last night he was in Glasgow and was said to be "aware" that he was

offered a £5,000 bribe to Badar Islam, an election rival, to scale down his campaign. Mr Sarwar claimed the money was a loan. Later other allegations emerged concerning expenses fiddles and attempts to rig the election register. Throughout, although isolated, Mr Sarwar maintained his innocence and promised to clear his name. The scale of the charges against

Mr Sarwar and their associations with sleaze will be embarrassing for Tony Blair, who has always made clear that he would not tolerate financial scandal in his party. Two other MPs have already been suspended from the parliamentary party this year. Bob Wareing, Labour MP for Liverpool West Derby, was suspended in June for failing to declare financial interests with a Serbian company. He has since been reinstated.

In August Tommy Graham, the MP for West Renfrewshire who was named in the suicide note of Gordon

McMaster in which he was accused of orchestrating a whispering campaign against the late MP, was suspended because he brought the party into disrepute by publicly criticising colleagues. He was cleared of any link with the suicide.

Conservative MPs were seeking to clarify last night whether Mr Sarwar would be allowed permission to enter the House of Commons while the legal proceedings were continuing. He was seen in the Commons late last week but has not attended regularly since his

David Maclean, the former Tory minister, raised a point of order in the Commons in which he said the warrant issued was for "one of the

most grave charges which exists" for an MP.

Yesterday Margaret Curran, Mr Sarwar's election agent, refused to comment and was referring all calls to Labour Party headquarters. In a prepared statement, a Labour spokesman said: "When the police inquiries began the Labour Party took action in two ways. Sarwar was suspended from membership of the Parliamentary Labour Party and the Labour Party deprived him of the right to represent the party at any level. We made it clear that this action was pending the outcome of the inquiry. Now that Mr Sarwar

has been charged he will continue to be suspended. Mike Russell, chief executive of on Mr Sarwar to resign "in the interests of democracy and the representation of the people of Govan." He said that a by-election offering constituents the chance to choose again was the only realistic option and should be taken either voluntarily by Mr Sarwar or at the behest of the Labour Party. The SNP gave Labour a close fight in Govan

Mr Russell said: "Clearly Mr Sarwar will now have the opportunity to clear his name in court, but having an MP disabled by allegations since May I, Govan now has an MP likely to be disabled by fighting criminal charges in court

Smuggled art clampdown by Sotheby's

BY DALYA ALBERGE AND DANIEL MCGRORY

its sale procedures to make sure they are clean as a whistle" after an inquiry into volved in smuggling art treasures. The auction house also said that it would not handle. anything if there was any suspicion that it might have

The new code of conduct was announced at an emer-gency staff meeting last night at the end of an \$11 million. investigation set up after The Times and an undercover team from Channel 4 reported that staff had been rigging auctions and illegally exporting works of art.

The inquiry found up to 20 cuses in which Sotheby's staff may have broken a country's laws, but no one has been disciplined. A director suspended in February has been

Dede Brooks. Sotheby's chief executive, denied that the report was a whitewash and said: "It's been a very painful process. Our changes are not a reflection of anything we found wrong, but more mak-ing certain that everything is clean as a whistle."

She said the report's findings would remain confidential, but admitted to a number of shortcomings in the company's operations - including staff training and record-keeping, which she described as absolutely inadequate.

The inquiry began after Roeland Kollewijn. Sotheby's Old Masters expert in Milan. was filmed arranging to smuggle an 18th century por-trait to London. Within days. Kollewin had resigned and George Gordon, a senior di-

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rector of the London Old Masters department, was suspended. He has now been

day that the Kollewijn affair was an isolated case, although the inquiry did find evidence of wrongdoing by a latitudial of staff. Someby's refused to works of art involved.

The inquiry — carried out by two law firms from New York and London under the chairmanship of the Sotheby's real executive director Max Fisher - examined 8,000 transactions representing aimost all of the past year's sales



Feb 6: art scandal was revealed in The Times

jewellery and antiquities with cross-border issues. It also took advice from 45 outside experts and interviewed more: than 200 staff in confidence. Kollewijn is facing legal procedures in Italy and did not give evidence; nor did Peter Watson, whose book launched the undercover investigation. He said that he was surprised not to have been invited to give evidence, but Sotheby's said it. had made stremuous efforts to persuade him to speak. Mrs. Brooks said: "As much as I hate to admit it, I think he did us a service. He jump-started Henry King, senior partner

they had found evidence of company's policy that employees should not break any country's laws in "less than 20 cases". He was satisfied that Individuals had acted from ignorance and said no one

Mrs Brooks said that the new code of practice meant the company had already turned away up to £10 million of business, including pre-Columbian artefacts and Old Master paintings. But that was balanced by the chance to restore Sotheby's credibility.

The dramatic change is that if any employee has actual knowledge that a work has been illegally exported from any country — not just those that we do business with then, regardless of US or EC law, we will not sell it. We are the only auction business to state this." Sotheby's has also introduced a more detailed warranty on contracts in which the owner states that the property was legally ex-ported and imported.

The move was welcomed by critics of auction house prac tices, including Sir Hugh Leggatt, the former museums. and galleries commissioner, who described it as a great step forward that should have been introduced years ago.

Neil Brodie, co-ordinator of the illicit antiquities research centre at the McDonald Insti-tute for Archaeological Research at Cambridge, said: "I would like to hope other auction houses and dealers would follow their example."

Smuggling dossier, page 8



Dede Brooks, Sotheby's chief executive, yesterday: "It's been a very painful process"

Freezing snow is blown in from East

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

sian Steppes will keep temperatures below freezing across Britain, with snew in many places today. The Meteprological Office said that

Last night semperatures were a degree or so either side of freezing throughout the country and they are expected to stay much the same today. But the wind chill factor will make it feel 10 to 15 degrees colder. If anything the winds will be a touch stronger than they have been already during this cold snap," a Meteorologi-

cal Office spokesman said. A band of snow was expected to sweep across the South and West last night, reaching the Thames Valley by dawn, but as it moves north it is likely to become cold rain. There will be fairly signifi-

BIFFIER winds from the Rus: cant problems on the roads and rail," the spokesman said. - However, the milder air which has been keeping tem-peratures up throughout the autumn and beginning of the driving conditions could be winter will once again come in hazardous and rail journeys. from the West, bringing the disrupted. temperatures slowly up by Thursday in the South and everywhere else by Friday." The longer-term outlook was for that milder weather to be sustained, although he did not

rule out another cold spap. Help the Aged called for the wind-chill factor to be taken into account when calculating cold weather payments for the elderly. The bookmaker Coral cut the odds on a second successive white Christmas from 4-1 to 7-2 after yesterday's flurries inspired bers totalling more than £10,000.

Homeless die, page 14



Beef rebels warn

The Government dismissed predictions of mass civil disobedience by meat traders after it faced a backlash at home and in Europe over its ban on the sale of beef on the hone and on European imports that did not match British standards. Butchers face prosecution and ital

Government

Gang trio jailed for attack on witness

By LIN JENKINS AND PETER FOSTER

THREE youths who tried to birthday party in a Charing terrify and intimidate the Cross Road club the night terrify and intimidate, the key witness in the Philip Lawrence murder trial were jailed yesterday.

They were sentenced at the end of the last trial in a series involving one gang that was responsible for violent crimes in London, including the stabhing of Mr Lawrence outside the school where he was beadmaster, the gang rape of a tourist and the near-fatal stabbing of the husband of Dame Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Gregory Jananto, Ramon Quiambo and Roland Ramos. all 18, were convicted of attempting to pervert the course of justice, a crime the judge described as a growing acourge. Jananto was jailed for seven years and the other

two for six. The attack on Antony Garcia, 20, occurred as he left a

before he gave evidence that Learco Chindamo had confessed over a game of pool that he had murdered Mr Lawrence. Mr Recorder David Farrer, QC, said that the attack had been planned and that the 200 mainly Filipino partygoers must have known about the campaign of intimidation. "I do not believe this was a spontaneous action. 1 think it was something which. at the least, a large number of

agreed upon." He praised Mr Garcia. whose ear was cut with a bottle before he was rescued by police, saying: "Antony Garcia is a young man who has shown conspicuous courage over a long period of

people talked about and

Street warriors, page 7

Avian flu may be spreading among humans

By Jonathan Mirsky in hong kong

CHICKEN FLU, which has killed two people, may be spreading from person to person, health authorities in Hong Kong believe.

If so, the danger of a worldwide epidemic will be greatly increased. Until now it had been thought all 11 cases of the disease so far identified or suspected had caught it directly from birds. But yesterday Dr Margaret Chan, Heng Kong's Director of Health. disclosed that two children... cousins of a five-year-old girl with avian flu, had the disease. Tests were being done to prove the link "beyond

all doubt" While "such man-to-man transmission is occurring at a very low level," she said, "we are nevertheless concerned by the constellation of cases. We need to expand our surveillance of the source of transmission and whether the virus has undergone any genetic changes or is still pure bird

On Monday, Dr Robert Webster, of the World Health Organisation's flu team, and

an expert at St Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, said it was only a matter of time before person to-person infection began. When that happened, he said, the virus could rage around the globe and existing flu vaccines would

offer no protection. The WHO said it would send testing kits for avian flu tri 110 centres in 82 countries around the world, to try to identify any cases outside Hong Kong, which would almost certainly be conclusive proof of a person-to-person spread.

The virus, which is called H5NI, has been known for many years, and had only been found in birds until May this year, when the first human victim, a three-yearold boy, died after infection showed to be identical.

This is the first time that any flu virus has jumped directly from birds to humans. Most new strains of flu develop in pigs and are then passed to humans.





Thus saith Prophe

'Madam Speaker, man-made climate change is the greatest environmental threat facing the world

"In the UK we have been suffering record drought for the last two and a half years. This year the world experienced the highest average

temperatures ever recorded. Terrible floods have engulfed central Europe. Droughts and storms have followed from this year's El Niño. Forest fires have caused deadly pollution in South East Asia and Australia. Our polar.

And only this weekend Mexico

ohn Prescott would have made was hit by freak snowstorms. Ala marvellous Old Testament raidy our sea levels are rising ready our sea levels are rising ...
it this continues, some island communities will disappear into the

> "Whole swaths of Britain's east coast could fall victim to rising sea levels. Man risks playing havoc with the world's weather systems.

"Unless we act now, we will be

condemning out children to a world

of drought and crop failures, mass migration and spreading disease." 'On and on the Deputy Prime Minister raged, his face black as thunder, his voice resonant with impending catastrophe.

Such was Mr Prescott's alarm that his text swam before his eyes as he warned in horrified tones of the

John ... and saith and saith and saith



emissions".

Then he told us what he was going to do about it - what, indeed. he had already done. Britain had played "a major role" at the Kyoto "I myself chaired the meeting of

developed countries," he said. "I met the leaders of a number of developed and developing countries." And, no doubt partly as a result, there was now "a window of credibility". We had not (before he mentioned

it) pictured Mr Prescott as a window credibility. More a cattlap of inanity. True, he meets a wall of incredulity. Sometimes he seems on the threshhold of insanity.

More rarely there is a peephole of rationality. His efforts are sprayed with the pebbledash of vanity. We paint his performances with a gloss of levity. And over the rest of his speech we draw the curtain of

Except that, such was the power of his delivery, such the insistence with

which he promised concerted world action against global warming, that by the time the Deputy Prime Minister sat down we began to fear lest Mr Prescott not only saved the world, but went too far.

Now he had travelled to Kyoto, it seemed. Planet Earth would unite to stop sea-levels rising. Another performance like this and Prescott looks in danger of causing them to fall. Could he provoke a reduction too far in carbon dioxide

The Deputy Prime Minister must be stopped from attending any more international conferences lest the ocean begin rolling back like the

Another five years of John Pres-

cott, and Essex will become an inland plateau, Liverpool a hillside and all our docks dry ruins, many miles from the shrunken seas.

"Failure," roared the Prophet John, as he neared the termination of his speech, "would have con-demned future generations to untold misery and disaster.

"We have taken the first, but only the first, crucial step to curbing climate change. There is still much to be done."

Stop, Mr Prescott: Stop before you crash through the window of credi bility and tumble into the most of prolixity! Stop before you stick fast in the mud of loquacity! Stop before we all drown in the waters of

MARTIN BEDDALL

Watchdog to check minister's contacts with trust

BY JUL SHERMAN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR GORDON DOWNEY. the parliamentary watchdog, has been formally asked to investigate Geoffrey Robinson's financial affairs and to look "in confidence" at details of the Orion Trust.

Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor has written to Sir Gordon to complain formally about the failure to register the Paymaster General's involvement in an offshore trust with the Register of Members' Interests. Sir Gordon has already indicated that he will investigate Mr Robinson's affairs following such a complaint

Mr Lilley has also asked Sir Gordon to rule on "an apparent conflict of interest" between Mr Robinson's ministerial role and the trust.

Last night a spokesman for Mr Robinson said the Paymaster General was "more than happy for Sir Gordon to look into this and will of course comply with any deci-sion that he makes". The spokesman said that if Sir Gordon ruled that he should register the trust then he would do so, but this would mean that Tory MPs would have to do the same.

Sources close to Mr Robinson said they thought it unlikely that he would be asked to reveal details about the trust deed.

Sir Gordon said yesterday that Mr Lilley wrote to him eight days ago, raising a question about the registration of offshore trusts. He replied that he would look into the issue if a complaint was lodged. But he said that the question of a potential conflict of interest between Mr Robinson's relations with the trust and his ministerial responsibilities was a matter for the Prime Minister.

Mr Lilley said in his letter esterday that statements by Mr Robinson and his solicitors plus interviews with three newspapers revealed that he and his family were the discretionary beneficiaries of the Orion Trust - the owner of 13 million shares in a company founded by Mr Robinson.

The Shadow Chancellor also highlights Mr Robinson's ed the trust buy his rights to 10 million TransTec shares and shares in Coventry City Football Club. "All this indicates a close involvement with the trust and, through it, with his commercial interests." Mr Lilley says in the letter. He added: "I understand

that not all trusts have such a close link with their beneficiaries. But, where they do, they surely fall within the ride requiring disclosure?

Butchers defy beef ban amid backlash BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND ADRIAN LEE THE Government dismissed

predictions of mass civil dis-obedience by meat traders vesterday after it faced a backlash at home and in Europe over its ban on the sale of beef on the bone and on European imports that did not match British standards.

After warnings that the new bone ban was "unenforceable" just hours after it came into effect, senior officials said that butchers were law-abiding citizens and would comply with the new regulations which would soon "settle down". But throughout Britain yes-

terday they continued to sell beef on the bone. They were warned that they faced prosecution and possible jail If they lay down the gaunt-

let it is just a question of time before someone is brought hefore the courts." a leading enforcement officer said. The row took an angry

political turn when Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, accused William Hague of "breathtaking hypocrisy" for backtracking on his earlier support for the measure. The Tory leader backed opponents of the ban during a dawn tour of Smithfield, London's meat market. He accused the Government of "insufferable arrogance" by introducing the ban and failing to maintain support levels for the farming industry still reeling from the BSE crisis and the effects of the strong pound which had

hit exports. But Dr Cunningham responded by accusing Mr Hague of hypocrisy so blatant it is breathtaking". The minister said Mr Hague had expressed support for the ban on the basis of advice from

scientists, but was now prepared to play "fast and loose" with public health to score

political points. Sources close to the minister have insisted that he had no choice but to impose the ban because he was acting on scientific advice.

Dr Kenneth Calman, the Government's chief medical officer, is understood to have told Dr Cunningham both before and after the advice from the Government's scientific committee arrived that there should be no question of allowing infected meat in th human food chain. "No responsible minister could have done anything else," said informed Government sources.

Last night Dr Cunningham rejected the criticisms of the regulations. In a statement issued after his return from Brussels he insisted it would be obvious to inspectors and customers if meat was being sold on the bone. "Environmental health officers visit butchers as part of their dayto-day enforcement duties," he

Meanwhile in Brussels Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler told a news conference that the legality of the move was still being investigated and warned it could

However, despite calls from MEPs for immediate legal action, Britain could be saved from prosecution because it will be difficult to squeeze a case through the European Courts of Justice before the measures take effect across Europe in three months' time. in the Isle of Man and Jersey, which have their own Parliaments, the sale of Tbone steak, oxtail, and rib will



William Hague showing his opposition to the ban by tucking into steak and Guinness at the Cock Tavern, Smithfield, yesterday morning

Germany criticises curbs on imports

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN'S decision to impose tough opposition yesterday from Germany and other EU states yesterday, but the European Commission indicated that it was unlikely to act against London over the measures.

EU farm ministers told Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, that they were unhappy with Britain's move to require the removal of bone and offal from the meat, according to Fernand Boden: the Luxembourg minister who chaired the Brussels session. "You shouldn't go it alone when it comes to matters of public

health. A unilateral decision is not something that will restore consumer confidence," he said.

The strongest criticism came from ly, which claims it has no native BSE and is resisting EU moves to impose the new hygiene rules on all member states. Jochen Borchert, its minister, said the British move was legally unjustifiable". The EU rules that allowed states to take unilateral action did not apply in this case because they could only be invoked over a sudden emergency and there was none in this case.

Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, said Brussels could only form an opinion once it saw a text of Britain's decision. Under EU law, a unilateral import restriction could be France had already imposed their own illegal. Britain is arguing that its measures are not an import ban, but a requirement imposed on beef at the

was nothing illegal in Britain's ban on the sale of ment-on-the bone. Officials indicated that even if Britain was considered to be breaking the letter of the single market rules, legal action would be unlikely. This was because the Commission has itself been pressing for the EU-wide removal of BSE "risk materials" and any case at the European court would not be heard until after the likely implementation of the new EU rules. The picture was

complicated because Ireland and

hygiene requirements, although these did not include buns on meat-on-thebone. However a Commission spokes-

authorities not to do anything illegal."
The deadline was delayed from next January I to April I in a vote by the 14 other member states on Monday, the move that triggered Dr Cumingham's decision. The British minister played down differences with the EU yesterday, saying: "The atmosphere was good. We had a long amicable discussion... no one is falling out." and Ireland had already imposed similar rules and been subject to no

Dr Cunningham said that France

Straw tells police to cut pensions bill | Blair acts to protect press freedom

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent

JACK STRAW yesterday ordered police forces to reduce early retirement on medical grounds after a report suggested that officers were being allowed to take sickness pen-

The report by the Inspectorate of Constabulary proposes that forces should set up resettlement schemes so that officers can be helped to find civilian jobs. The system could be modelled on the redundancy schemes used in the Services and the officers could receive a bonus to go.

Endorsing a call by the

report for the average rate of medical retirements to fall from 45 per cent to 33 per cent within two years, Jack Straw said forces must take urgent action. He said there was no excuse for ill-health pensions to vary from 77 per cent of all retirements in Merseyside to 16 per cent in Wiltshire.

More than 50 per cent of officers retiring in a third of all

the 43 forces in England and Wales leave on medical grounds, which brings extra pension payments. Mr Straw said the report showed that many forces were not tackling

sickness problems effectively. The report reveals that in 1996-97 more than 1.5 million police working days were lost at a cost of £210 million across England and Wales. On any day 6.600 officers are reported sick, equal to the entire police coverage of Wales. The report

indicates there are a significant number of officers exploiting the pension system.An officer who left at the age of 51 after 27 years' service would get £279,500 by the time he was 70, but the pension would not be index linked until he was 55. If he could get an ill-health pension. it would be index-linked at once and would be worth £328,900 by 70. If he claims a minor injury award as well the total would be £505,600.

POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR told senior ministers yesterday that two key government Bills should not be allowed to become backdoor privacy laws. The Prime Minister chaired

a meeting of ministers at Downing Street at which he sought reassurance that both the new Data Protection Bill and the Human Rights Bill, incorporating the European convention into British law, would not damage press free-

already decided that the data Bill should include changes to stop it being used to block investigative journalism.

After talks between Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. and Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, the Government has come down against "prior restraint" - the principle of allowing people to seek protec-tion against alleged breaches before publication of an article or broadcast. Mr Blair is said

by Cabinet colleagues to be

Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, who is in charge

of the Human Rights Bill.
The Prime Minister has always been against privacy laws and in favour of press self-regulation and ministers say that he is now looking at both measures with a lawyer's eye. The data Bill, expected last week or this, is now expected to be delayed until the new year so that "loose

taking a ciose personal interest in the passage of both Bills. He has been briefed person-

ally by Mr Straw and Lord

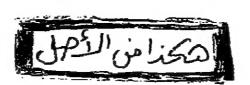
ends" can be tied up: There will be continuing discussions following the meeting on changes that might be needed to the human rights Bill.
Lord Irvine admitted recent

freedom of the press and interfere with the judgments of the PCC. He has said that the PCC might be considered a public body under the convention. As a result its ruling would be open to court challenge and newspapers would be subject to interim



. Go behind enemy lines this Christmas.

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Frank Williams: relief

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

FRANK WILLIAMS and two other senior members of the Williams Formula One management were yesterday acquitted on charges of manslaughter arising from the death three years ago of the Brazilian motor-racing champion Ayrton

The decision by a district court at Imoia, near Bologna, northern Italy, not far from the racetrack where Senna died on 1st May, 1994, was greeted with huge relief in the world of formula one racing.

Italian motor racing officials said

convicted, the future of Formula One in Italy would have been under

Patrick Head, the Williams technical director, and Adrian Newey, the former chief designer, were also

The prosecution said that it may appeal against the acquittals. Maurizio Passarini, the public prosecutor, had argued that modifi-

cations to the steering wheel of Senna's car made before the Imola Grand Prix had caused it to snap. The steering column pierced Senna's helmet and killed him instantly

as the racing car hit the concrete wall of the track at 190mph. Mr Williams, who was paralysed in a car accident II years ago, appeared in a wheelchair at the Imola hearings at the end of October, and admitted that he had had "some doubts" about the steering wheel modifications, which were designed

But he said that he did not believe this was the cause of the accident. and insisted that the car's "engineer-

to give Senna more room behind the

ing and integrity" were normal.

After the acquittal, Peter Goodman, one of the lawyers represent-

ed correctly. Mr Williams will be pleased that it is over and has gone successfully for him."

Signor Passarini last month accepted that there was no material case against Mr Williams, and recommended that the charge against him be dropped.

But he called for both Mr Head

and Mr Newey to be convicted and

A Williams spokesman said that the team now looked forward to next year's season "with confidence and

ing Mr Williams, said: "This is the right verdict. The trial was conduct-mula. One, said that the court decision was "tremendous" news.

The fact that Frank and the rest of the team have coped with this major problem during a championship year says something about them," Mr Tyrrell said.

He added that the FIA, the governing body of motor-racing, should have dealt with the matter. rather than it going before an Italian court of law.

given a one-year suspended sen-Eddie Jordan, the Formula One team boss, said it would be difficult for him to send "a lot of engineers and designers who in their opinion

they can" to take part in a race in Italy which might end with them facing criminal charges in the event of an accident.

"In the very unlikely event of a driver fatality you could have an engineer or a team owner going to jail while their family thinks they are just pursuing their sport." Mr

The governing body said it would not comment on the verdict until it had studied the court's decision

Three track officials who had been charged were also acquitted.

Diary spoof hurt Clark's colossal vanity, says QC

ALAN CLARK'S "colossal vanity" caused him to complain when a series of spoof journals appeared under his name in a newspaper, the High Court was told

The Conservative MP and diarist, who is seeking damages and an injunction preventing the Evening Standard from further publication of "Alan Clark's Secret Political Diary, took his action to stamp out ridicule he richly deserved, it was claimed.

Mr Clark, a self-confessed philanderer, acknowledged that he was a fair target for satire on his sexual outlook. But he was "deeply offended" by the characterisation of his political views as akin to those of the Nazis, the court was

Mr Clark, who has written several military histories as well as his bestselling Diaries published in 1993, claims his reputation as a "serious man of letters" was damaged by the spoofs, which were written by Peter Bradshaw, a journalist. While Mr Bradshaws name appears in bold print at the top of each diary, Mr Clark's name and photograph are

prominently displayed. Peter Prescott, QC, for the Standard, asked: "Are you indeed asserting, with all the gravitas becoming a witness giving evidence in a court of damage your reputation as a serious man of letters?"

"Yes," replied Mr Clark. "And as a serious historian?"

Mr Clark added: "A huge number of people have com-plained to me that they were upset - not just misled upset by what 'I' wrote." He

said that twice on the phone he asked Mr Bradshaw to stop writing the pieces and was referred to the Standard's Editor, Max Hastings. In May he complained to Mr Hastings when they met at the Chelsea Flower Show. Mr Hastings said that the series would

popular thing in the paper". The 65-year-old MP said: "I am concerned that there are many members of the public of whom I am unaware who will also have believed that I had written the articles and who were offended by the contents, and whose misapprehensions I cannot correct." He believed this would re-

continue as it was "the most

6 Many people have complained to me that they were upset — not just misled — by what 'I' wrote'. 9

sult in financial damage as people might not buy his future books, including the second volume of diaries he was contracted to prepare.

Mr Prescott said: "I am going to suggest that your real motive in bringing these proreputation as a serious man of

"But rather, I am going to suggest that your real motive is to hamper or prevent an effective form of criticism of you as a politician and as a man - indeed, in your case, the only really effective form of criticism, namely ridicule, and I'm going to suggest that it's a

Clark yesterday: lamented his physical failures

criticism you richly deserve. The other reason is because this spoof has injured your personal vanity, which is co-

Mr Prescott asked Mr Clark during nearly two hours of cross-examination: "Would it be fair to say that you are somewhat obsessed with your personal appearance, your physique and sexual attract-

Mr Clark replied: "Selfassessment is difficult enough when dealing with one's in-come tax. I think in relation to character, it's quite useless".

The spoofs, which first appeared shortly after Mr Clark was selected as a parliamentary candidate for Kensington and Chelsea, mocked him for being an "ageing roue". Mr Prescott said. In his own Diaries, counsel said, Mr Clark put a different gloss on his sexual adventures and came across as a "Don Juan

with a twinkle in your eye".

Mr Clark said that on the contrary, his diaries contained references to his greying hair and physical decline. "I lament my physical failures of one sort or another. I don't think there are any entries of me being a winking Don Juan," he said.

When asked about his arrogance, Mr Clark agreed that he had described standing on balcony at the Department the urge to relieve himself on the "ant-like crowds" below. He agreed that he had described Janet Foulkes, MP, as having a "vast arse", while Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, was a "pudgy puffball", William Walde-

tering, bullying and stupid". You are pretty arrogant about the way of expressing yourself," Mr Prescott said The MP replied that none of his colleagues had complained about the unflattering descrip-

grave was an "ambitious creep" and Tom King "blus-

tions in his Diaries.

Mr Clark, who faced lengthy questioning on his succession of extramarital affairs, went on to say: The most offensive part of Mr Bradshaw's so-called spoof is when he portrays me as some kind of Nazi sympathiser convening groups of people giving the Hitler salute." He read from Barbarossa, one of his historical works, in which he referred to the Nazi state as resting on a basis of total brutality and corruption". He agreed that he had seen some merit in a controversial account of the Second World War by David Irving, the

extreme right-wing writer. The case continues today.



Kyle wearing a pair of his silicone ears and displaying his spare set. He has one set for winter and one for summer

Deaf boy given artificial ears

By IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A BOY of ten, who was born without ears, has been fitted with an artificial pair

that have given him hearing.

Kyle Williams was born without any ears because he suffers from a rare condition called Treachers syndrome. Now, thanks to a police identification expert and a specialist surgical tears. from the University Hospital in Birmingham, he can hear and has two

slightly sunburnt summer set — that are indistinguishable from the real thing. Kyle, from Rawmarsh, South York-shire, was fitted with a hearing aid when

he was four. This enabled him to listen to music played on a specially adapted personal stereo and to hear conversations fairly well. Although surgeons had the expertise to fit the ears, he was told that he would have to wait until he was olderto have the operation. But Kyle persuaded David Proops, the surgeon heading the team, to give him his ears early. They were modelled from Kyle's 11-

year-old sister. Leander, to ensure a family resemblance. Detective Constable Ian Bardell, South Yorkshire Police's facial identification expert, compiled a computer photofit to show him what they would look like.

The operation involves fitting two titanium screws into the bone of the skull where the ear normally is. Once these have become integrated in the bone, two small lugs are inserted into the screws and a small gold bar is placed across them. A synthetic ear is then fitted on to

Keep more sport on free TV. says BBC

THE BBC yesterday called on the Government to add the European Football Championships, the Ryder Cup. Five Nations Rugby and the Commonwealth Games (in the UK) to the list of sporting events that must be broadcast on terrestrial television.

In its submission to the Government, the corporation said public accessibility to such events was crucial to a sense of shared national culture. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport has appointed a committee to consider which sporting occasions should be on the list.

The current listed eight are the Olympic Games, the FIFA World Cup finals, the FA Cup Final, Scottish FA Cup Final, Cricket Test matches involving England, Wimbledon finals, the Grand National and the Derby.

Will Wyatt, chief executive of BBC Broadcast, said that at the heart of the BBC's case was the question of whether "the big sporting events should only be available to those privileged enough to afford subscription television". He said free-to-air channels reached 97 per cent of the population compared with the 16 per cent of homes who subscribed to Sky Sports. An estimated 23.8 million viewers had watched the Eng-land v Germany Euro 96 semi-final on BBC and ITV; 3.8 million had watched the World Cup qualifier between Italy and England on BSkyB.

The driver who was blind and drunk

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

POLICE called to breath test a suspected drunk driver were astonished to find he was registered blind. Peter Langley, 40, could not see the end of his bonnet, but had managed to drive two miles before crashing into a parked car.

Magistrates at Newton Abbott heard that Langley's sight had worsened until he was registered blind in March this year. He had been out drink-ing with his girlfriend, who normally drove, but on this occasion she had been drink-

Langley, of Heathfield, Dev-on, admitted driving with more than twice the permitted level of alcohol in his breath. Magistrates in Newton Abbot adjourned sentence until Janate driving ban on him.



This is unfair, says woman in Aids rumours at Army camp

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A TEENAGER alleged to be at the centre of an Aids scare involving hundreds of sol-diers at the biggest Army base in Britain yesterday denied having the virus.

More than 7,000 soldiers have been warned about at least two women in the area who are believed to HIVpositive. The Army refused to identify them, but an 18-yearold living in a council estate at Colburn, on the edge of the sprawling camp, said that her life had been made a misery by rumours that she was HIVpositive and that she had slept

 with scores of soldiers. She told a local radio station that she would take an Aids test to clear her name. She said: "People are making a big deal out of nothing. It is distressing me and the sooner I get the Aids test done, the better. I'd like to then get the test photocopied and send it around everywhere."

The teenager said she had a steady boyfriend but had attended parties at the two-bedroom ground floor flat of a close female friend which was visited by soldiers. She said: This all started when I began hanging around with her and going out drinking and clubbing, but all the rumours are untrue. I don't want to go out into the street and show my face because of this, but I won't run away and move

Her friend, a 20-year-old woman who also lives in Colburn, accused people of attacking her because she liked to have a good time.

The soldiers were given their Aids warning on December 10 in a "special routine order" from the garrison's deputy commander, Colonel Neil Donaldson, Yesterday he declined to identify the source of a tip-off. His order said: "It has been

males (iving in the geographi-cal area of Catterick Garrison have contracted the Aids virus and are HIV-positive. The same females are believed to be liberal with their affections, particularly to soldiers and are not averse to indulg-ing in casual sex, often unprotected. "All ranks are reminded that there is no known cure

reported by a confidential

source that at least two fe-

for Aids. In short, it is a killer. If you have had casual sex in this area, you are strongly advised to seek the advice of your medical officer without

The response was so overwhelming that the base's confidential medical centre has had to roster visits. No test had proved positive so far. A neighbour of the 20-yearold woman said: "Her place was like the Naafi."



confidential tip-off

Yorkshire Health Authority said: "We have one of the lowest rates of Aids infection in the country. In the area we are talking about, there are in fact no people on record as having Aids. The Army has a duty of care to its soldiers, and it seems like a sensible precautionary step, but we would not wish to hype it up more A spokesman for North



Shot terrorist was ready to kill police who got in his way '

quartermaster shot by police in West London, threatened to kill any police officers who tried to stop him. Scotland Yard disclosed

last night. Tapes recorded secretly by MI5 were released by police yesterday as members of O'Neill's gang were jailed at the Old Bailey.

Details of the tapes were given to the SOI9 officers briefed to arrest the suspects the night before the raids. They were warned to expect oppostion. In fact O'Neill was unarmed. Yesterday the Yard released transcripts of a conversaPlan to 'whack' officers was captured by MI5 bug in hotel room of IRA suspects, writes Stewart Tendler

Kelly, who was jailed for 20 years. O'Neill: "When I'm out front and come in and say something like 'Mr Wilkinson. The police here want to talk to you.' you gotta go: 'What's going on here, mate. I dunno. mate. I'm just a member of the ... going to that lorry, just

bought it . . . It needs some work." "If I come in and say that, you come out. Just let Eddie (Brian McHugh. leader of the gang) do it. You come out and kill the cops out

O'N: "You got no fucking choice. No fucking choice. K: "Then the shit hits the fan,

O'N: "Then we have to whack the two of them. They'll have no idea. We have a ... bit of breathing space, three or four hours of breathing space. You're fucked anyhow. That's what I am

saying to yer.
"If it gets to that stage you'd have to kill the coppers. You get caught otherwise. So if you are not prepared to shoot you leave your-

self open." K: "Yeah."
Kelly also discussed attacking Belmarsh high-security prison in South London which holds many IRA terrorists.

Kelly: "I think I should organise a big operation and blast the fuck out of Belmarsh."

O'N: "Belmarsh jail is inside a jail. There are people in a jail within a jail and there's a steel cage over the top of it. So they would have to blast their way in to blast a way out." K: "Yeah."

O'N: "They wouldn't send a squad over to do that." K: "Be good for morale to bust a

few fellas out." The gang also discussed shooting down a police helicopter.

During the trial, the Old Bailey was told that O'Neill was with two other members of the gang sharing a room in the Premier West hotel in Hammersmith, West London, when the raid started Police hoped to slip into the room using a key but it did not work. They then tried to remove the lock with a

The police fired CS gas through the hole but some of the officers were also overwhelmed by it. Anofficer codenamed Kilo was one of the raiders. The terrorists inside the room ignored calls to come out and then the door opened and Kilo could see a figure who seemed to react to nothing the officer said. He repeatedly called for the man to show his hands.

Kilo told the court "He had not replied to anything I said. His

body language was aggresive. He leaned towards me in a boxer-type stance. I felt I was about to be shot because I thought I had heard shots coming from inside the room. I fired two shots in his direction. They did not appear to have any effect whatsoever. So I fired another two shots quickly

per de

followed by another two." Under cross-examination Kilo said he never heard shouts of "Whoa, whoa" and "We give up." He did not hear a colleague order the suspects on to the floor or a voice say they were down. He was some distance away and struggling to breathe because of the CS gas.

End of IRA gang that planned to devastate London

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent

IRA terrorists who plotted to devastate London with a series of massive lorry bombs were jailed for up to 25 years at the Old Bailey yesterday. Detectives believe the gang was going to attack one of London's largest shopping centres and the road system.

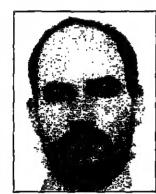
They were caught after the biggest surveillance operation ever carried out against terrorists on the British mainland. Hundreds of police and M15 officers followed the gang for six weeks, recording their conversations and photographing them.

Yesterday Brian McHugh. 31, from Co Fermanagh, was jailed for 25 years as the commander of the gang. Patrick Kelly, also 31, from Co Longford, who was to have driven the lorry, got 20 years. James Murphy, 26, a groundsman at Latymer School, West London, was jailed for 17 years.

Michael Phillips, 22, a former British Airways engineer. was cleared of being in the plot. He hugged the convicted men before leaving the court. IRA commanders based in South Armagh's "bandit country" had wanted to repeat the

1996 mayhem in Manchester city centre with a new attack in the capital. A single message passed from a telephone box in an Irish town close to the border would have sent a lorry

bomb on its way. The gang's quartermaster, Diarmuid O'Neill — later killed by a police marksman in a raid — had stockpiled 6.3 tonnes of homemade explosive, 22lb of Semtex and enough bombmaking equip-ment for up to four lorry bombs. Each would have been the equivalent to one of the bombs used for the

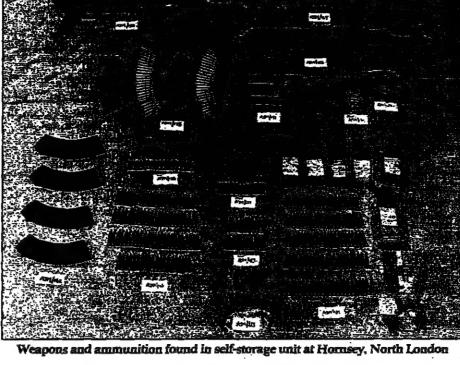


McHugh: commander of the bombers

Manchester attack. O'Neill and Kelly were heard discussing driving a four-tonne lorry bomb into the outskirts of London. It would have been the biggest device used on the

Police now believe that O'Neill may have been involved in helping to arrange the Manchester blast and had spent years setting up a network of stores around London. Passing sentence, Mr Justice Smedley told McHugh his claims that the bomb material was simply being stored were "sheer hypocrisy". The intention was a bombing campaign aimed at innocent people, and he had been sent to conduct the final stages. Kelly, said the judge, was not a sophisticated terrorist but a dedicated IRA member. Mur-

phy had been seduced by O'Neill's charisma. Detectives never discovered the actual targets. They know the gang were considering West and East London, possibly close to Docklands. Several car bombs were stockpiled for attacks on individuals. The gang was brought together by senior IRA planners in February last



es and IRA errors had left the commanders desperate for success. Police had arrested one of the IRA's top units as it prepared to attack the electricity system for London and the South East.

O'Neill had been active as part of the IRA supply net-work since at least 1993. The Londoner had been jailed in 1988 for embezzling funds for the republican cause, and was still carrying out frauds on the DSS and local authorities.

He had rented a storage unit in Fulham, close to Chelsea football ground. Posing as the owner of a transport firm, he also rented a steel unit at a storage depot in Hornsey. North London, for furniture storage". When the ceasefire ended in February last year, he was seen unloading five or six pallets of bags which appeared to be compost. They contained homemade explo-

sive mixes. O'Neill was joined by Murphy, and the gang grew to four with the arrival of Kelly and McHugh. The group used coded messages on pagers and mobile telephones. But they were under observation by teams of surveillance officers from MI5, Special Branch and the Yard's SOII unit, which specialises in tailing leading said he acted in self-criminals. Police will not say amid swirling CS gas.

how they launched the operation, codenamed Tinnitus. Each of the suspects required up to 30 officers a day. Each surveillance team was backed by armed officers from the Yard's firearms branch.

On September 22, the police decided to strike. They believed the gang was getting close to action. It would only take a few minutes for a lorry to be loaded and sent to destruction. The first target might be decided the next morning. O'Neill died as the hotel room he shared with McHugh and Kelly was raided. A police marksman later said he acted in self-defence

Londoner was ready to bomb his home city

BY OUR CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DIARMUID O'Neill, the IRA quartermaster killed by police, was born in London and attended one of the capital's best state schools. But by his 20s O'Neill had become a fervent Republican activist, helping to run the terrorist supply routes and featuring on a Scotland Yard file of terrorist suspects.

He was born to an Irish family in west London in 1969 and was sent to the Oratory School in Kensington - now attended by one of the sons of the Prime Minister. At Oratory, O'Neill was regarded as a model pupil and left with good O levels to work first in an employment office and then for an Irish bank.

But even in his teens he was committed to the cause of a united Ireland. In 1988 he was jailed for nine months for embezzling £75,000 from the bank and giving half to Re-publican fund-raisers. Re-leased from prison. O'Neill claimed to be a carpenter but earnt a living from various crimes, including benefit

O'Neill, nicknamed Zoomer by his Republican friends, was also a key figure in the IRA support network. He visited Spain and kept a membership card for the political wing of the separatist

worn for marches. The ETA terrorists have long had con-nections with the IRA, help-

ing them to develop weapons. In London O'Neill attended rallies and campaigned for the transfer of IRA prisoners. He made no secret of his views and could be an impressive debater, haunting Irish public houses and meeting

He began the first moves to stockpiling IRA supplies in 1993 but although he was suspected by police of taking part in terrorist work he could not be caught. Last year the IRA alerted him to help their B team launch attacks across his home city.



O'Neill: stockpiled

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University in two years time.

Susan Oliver is aged 29 and single. She lives in Oxford and works as a freelance form Susan intends studying for an MBA white continuing her work and is remortaging for that with a loan of £35,000 against a value of £65,000. She will raise capital of £10,000 with her Personal Choice Mortgage and use it to help to fund her studies.

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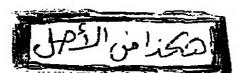
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is way. Couple jailed for cruelty over death of baby girl

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A COUPLE who escaped a murder charge over the death of their baby daughter because of a legal loophole were jailed for seven and five

years yesterday.

An Old Bailey judge said that neither John Sherrington nor Lavinia Adams could be sentenced for the death. sentenced for the death of 18month-old Sarah Adams as it was uncertain who had struck the fatal blows.

The couple pleaded guilty to cruelty and neglect of Sarah, who suffered persistent abuse at their hands and died of a fractured skull and brain haemorrhage last November.

Had they been convicted of murder, they would have re-ceived mandatory life sen-tences. Instead, Sherrington, 33. was jailed for seven years and Adams, 32, for five.

Jailing the impassive pair yesterday, Judge Richard Hawkins said it was clear from the evidence that Sarah was "repeatedly injured" while in their care, but that the prosecution was unable to say who was directly responsible



Lavinia Adams and John Sherrington in the dock

for her death. He could sen-tence them only for their "undoubted cruelty" to Sarah.

The prosecution having been unable to establish against Adams that she en-couraged Sherrington to assault Sarah in a joint enter-prise that envisaged grevious bodily harm, the Crown were unable to proceed against either of you on the murder charge," the judge said.
Initially the couple had de-

nied cruelty and, after the case opened last month, the jury listened to tapes made by Sherrington, Sarah's acting stepfather, taunting her as he held her in a tight leg lock. The child could be heard scream-ing in pain as Sherrington told her that he would give her a drink of "bleach mixed with

Orlando Pownall, for the prosecution, told the jury that Sherrington and Adams, who

both lived in Sutton, Surrey, days, had repeatedly abushed Sarah in the few months of

St Helier Hospital in Carshalton with fatal brain injuries, she had bite marks and bruising all over her body, includjudge pointed out that the pair had gone shopping while their child lay dying in hospital.

On the second day of the trial, Sherrington, a bank messenger, admitted three charges of cruelty and wilful to be suffering from mild admitted three cruelty charges, including one of biting her daughter. Judge Hawkins was later told that Adams had been

dominated by her new boy-friend, who had also terrorised his previous wife by trying to strangle her and threatening her with a knife.

Their case follows at least eight others whose children

have escaped murder or manslaughter charges because of the joint enterprise issue. Child welfare workers and

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the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children have campaigned for a change in the law, but police and the Crown Prosecution Service find themselves handicapped by an appeal court ruling that there must be specific evidence of who caused the fatal injury to

justify a murder charge.
Yesterday Wendy Lydon,
whose three-year-old nephew,
Tommy Lee Bannister, was battered to death in 1991 by his mother, Jacqueline, and her boyfriend, Robert Harvey, said the present situation was a national disgrace.

Ms Barmister and Mr Harvey were originally charged with manslaughter, but the charges were dropped because it could not be established which of them had killed the child. "The guilty are making a mockery of the legal sys-tem," Ms Lydon said. "I hoped my nephew would be the last



Eighteen-month-old Sarah Adams was repeatedly injured while in the couple's care

Company | Smoking drivers go victims in out of way warning to to beat tax

BY KEVIN EASON MOTORING EDITOR

COMPANY car drivers compiete up to 8.2 billion miles a year in unnecessary journeys to cut their tax bills, says a report out today. Average business mileage almost triples in March and April, just before the end of the tax year. so that drivers can reduce their liability by 35 per cent,

The tax system has two mileage thresholds, at 2,500 and 18,000 miles. Each time company motorists cross a threshold, there is a 35 per cent reduction in their tax bill. Journeys are often hastily

arranged trips to outposts of the company empire to clock up enough miles, the report suggests. Robert Blower, of Arriva Automotive Solutions. a fleet company that surveyed 5,000 company motorists over 18 months, said: "It is very curious the way the amount of mileage suddenly jumps at the same time each year.

"And so strange that so many company drivers seem to feel the need to visit their branch office in somewhere like Aberdeen shortly before the tax year ends."

But Arriva warns Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, against imposing taxes to force drivers out of company cars. It says that they would use the family's second car or buy a cheaper, older and more polluting replacement.

The company suggests that the Government adopt a six-band system at 3,000, 7,000, 10,000, 13,000, 18,000 and 24,000 miles, offering a 10 per cent tax reduction at each threshold crossed. This would take the incentive out of chasing huge mileages.

the young

By IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN who developed lung cancer at 34 is to start an anti-smoking campaign to warn young people about the dangers of tobacco. Tracey Cotton, who has two children, will be the first of three patients appearing on tele-

All three began smoking as teenagers, and all volunteered to appear in the £2.5 million, government-funded campaign, which will include magazine and radio advertisements. The Health Education Authority says that 35 per cent of men and 29 per cent of women aged 16 to 24 are regular smokers, and about half-will-die early as a result.

Mrs Cotton, from Nottingham, will be the first patient to appear in the television advertisments, from Boxing Day. She started smoking at 13, and was diagnosed with lung cancer and a brain tumour two years ago after coughing up blood. Now 36, she has lost one lung and has secondary cancer. She says: "I kept thinking, 'I'm too young

for lung cancer.' The two other patients are Sylvester Khokar, 32, from London, who had three heart attacks last year, and David Vaughan, 51, from Lincolnshire, who has chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Mr Vaughan is shown wearing a mask, coughing and splutter-

ing as he speaks. ☐ Smokers suffer 60 per cent more minor ailments than non-smokers, according to Tony Ward, a health psychologist at Luton University. In a survey, smokers were more likely to have colds, toothache

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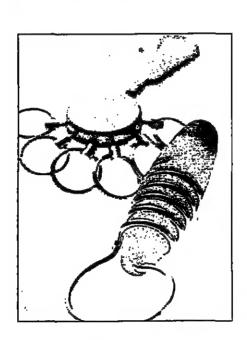
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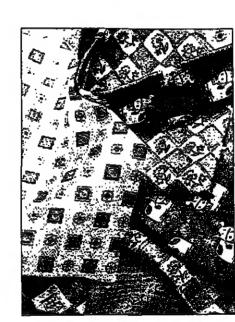
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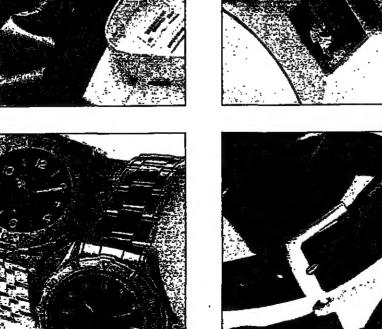
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Students urged to cut drop-out rate by taking gap year

SCHOOL-LEAVERS were careers may do their charges a yesterday advised to take a year off, rather than rush to university, after research showed that the £178 million cost of drop-outs would be slashed by better preparation. Up to 10 per cent of under-graduates fail to finish their

degrees, but half return to study within a year, often at another university, research has shown. The Higher Edu-Funding Council. commissioned the study, said a year off would allow ill-prepared school-leavers to address the main reasons for dropping out: poor choice of course or institution,

and cash problems. The researchers concluded: "School-leavers who are un-clear about the choice of pro-gramme should consider the advantages of taking a period of time between leaving school and entering higher education. Those in schools who are responsible for advising on

greater service by explaining the virtues of not rushing into higher education." A year off would help them to "clarify their educational aims and, perhaps, to build up a reserve through higher education".

The annual cost to the state of students dropping out was put at £91 million, assuming that full years completed by the one third of drop-outs who leave in their second or third year is money well spent. The cost rises to £178 million if all the money spent on a student is considered "wasted".

A total of 1,478 students were questioned, from 23 institutions, including King's College, London, and Luton University. One in five of the drop-outs in 1994-95 left because of academic failure. A quarter of those failing to complete their degrees ruled out returning to university.

the abolition of grants, the study found that workingclass students were the group most likely to drop out because of financial pressures. This is a matter which might be given some consideration by those with a concern for policy related to social justice. The funding council said the

biggest influence on the decision to drop out was lack of preparation, leading to unrealistic expecatations and poor practical skills. The researchers recom-

mended that schools, further education colleges and higher education institutions could reduce drop-out rates by pro-viding better information and advice to potential students. and offering more training in study skills and practical skills

such as managing finances.

They also called for a rethink of the clearing system. so that students had more time to consider their options.



First for son. who rose to family challenge

BY JOHN O'LEARY

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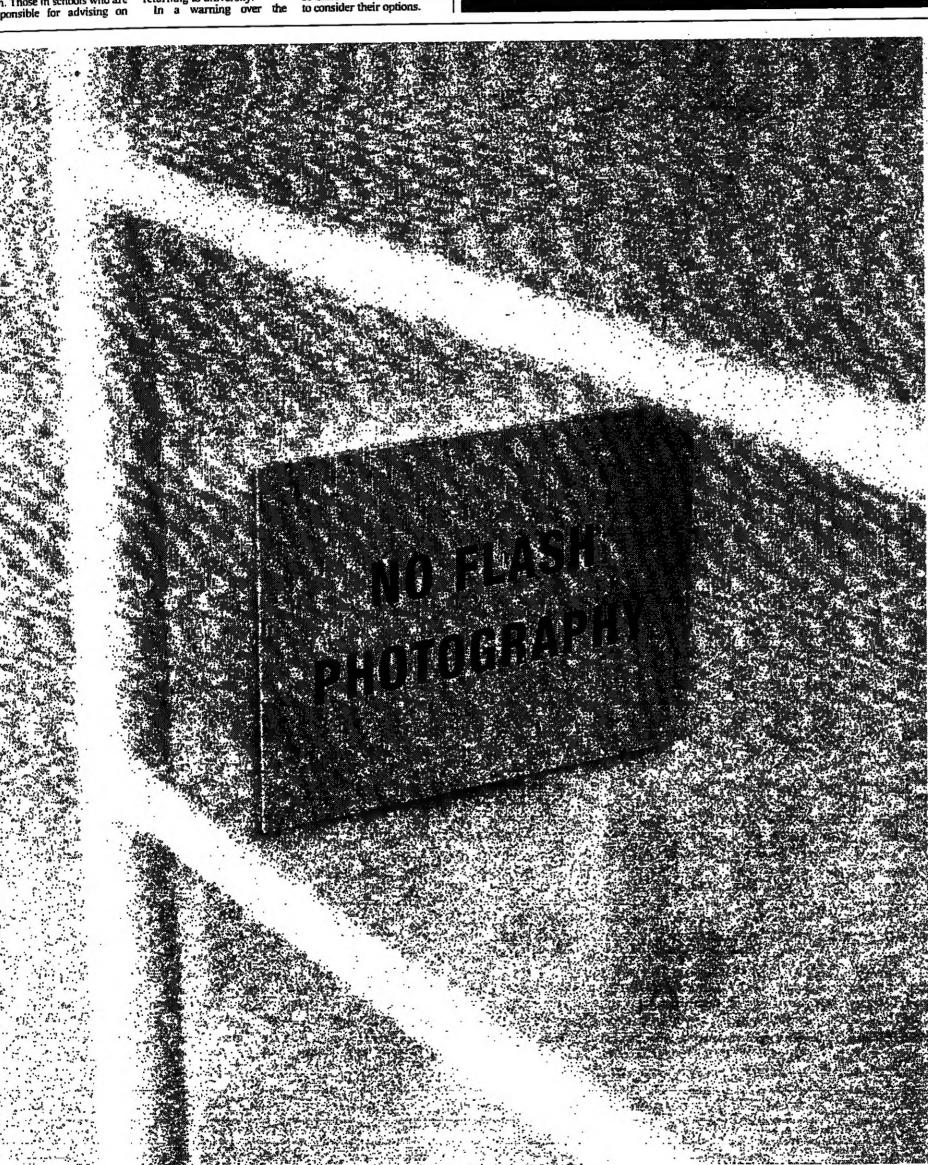
electives in

A 30-YEAR-OLD postgradusity Challenge record last night before the first question was asked by becoming the first child of a contestant to take part in the long-running

Dominic Donald, 30, was not even a twinkle in his mother's eye when 19 year-old Annabelle Stockwell captained St Anne's College. Oxford, to victory in the first round of the 1963 series. Last night he followed in her footsteps as captain of the team from King's College.

King's were beaten by Nottingham University by 230 points to 215. Mr Donald said: "I have to recognise Mum is the genius of the family after

Mrs Donald became an English teacher and writer of detective novels. Her son graduated from Magdalen College, Oxford, and is now reading war studies. He said: "It was something I've always to the detection of the same since it was something in the same since it was something in the same since it was something in the same since it was something to the same since it was same since it was something to the same since it was something to wanted to do ever since



Double agent Blake forced to forfeit royalties

By Richard Ford, home correspondent

GEORGE BLAKE, the double agent whose treachery cost the lives of many British spies. has been barred from receiving £90,000 in royalties from the sale of his memoirs after the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday that he should not profit from his crimes.

Lord Justice Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, and two other judges granted an injunction stopping the publishers from sending any more money to Blake, who lives modestly in Moscow.

Blake, a former officer with the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) who worked for the KGB, has already received a E50,000 advance for his book No Other Choice. Published by Jonathan Cape in 1991, it sold 17,000 of the 19,000 copies printed. Counsel for the Attor-ney-General said the Government hoped that Jonathan Cape would donate the royalties to charity.

Yesterday's ruling overthe High Court in April which said that the Crown's insistence of a lifelong duty of fidelity for security service terference with rights of free

A duty to refrain from disclosing information that was neither secret nor confidential was not necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, the High Court said. But the Master of the Rolls,

sitting with Lords Justices Millett and Mummery, said yesterday: The ordinary member of the public would be shocked if the position was that the courts were powerless to prevent the respondent profiting from his criminal conduct.

In a written judgment, they said that the remedy should be designed to achieve the public law policy of preventing the offender from profiting as a result of, or in connection with, his crime.

Blake, 73, was responsible for the deaths of several British agents after he became a Russian spy in the wake of his capture by North Koreans and conversion to communism. On May 3, 1961, he pleaded

guilty to five counts of unlaw-fully communicating information contrary to the Official Secrets Act and was sentenced to 42 years' imprisonment. It was said later that his sentence represented a year for every agent betrayed. In 1966 he escaped from jail and made his way to Berlin and

later to Moscow Lord Justice Woolf said that, in submitting the book for publication without obtaining clearance, Blake was in breach of contract, entitling the Crown to an injunction and damag

He said that, by disclosing information relating to security or intelligence gained as a result of his position as a member of the SIS. Blake had committed a criminal offence.

The Attorney-General had the power to enforce public policy aimed at preventing a criminal further benefiting The appeal judges said: "It

dent had not been a notorious spy who had also dramatically escaped from prison, royalties of this order would never have been paid to him for his autobiography."

Jonathan Cape agreed to

pay Blake £50,000 when he signed the contract, £50,000 when it received the manuscript and £50,000 on publication. The Attorney-General has never tried to stop publication of the book.

The appeal judges said that the Attorney-General was entitled to relief in public law in his historic role as guardian of the public interest".



Blake has already been paid £50,000 for his book

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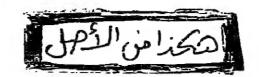
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'They consider themselves above the law and make no attempt to conceal their crimes,' a policeman said

عكذامن والإصل

Youth gang linked to murder, rape and street attacks

A TEENAGE gang modelled on the Triads was behind the murder of the headmaster Philip Lawrence, the stabbing of the husband of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and the gang rape of a tourist.

The gang remains active today despite many of the leaders being behind bars. They operate in central and North London, meeting in amuse-ment arcades and pool halls in King's Cross, Chinatown, the Strand and Trafalgar Square, and use violent mugging to fund their drug use.

They are routinely armed with knives, swords and martial arts weapons. A cigarette burn between thumb and forefinger indicates membership.

One policeman said: "What struck me was their routine use of violence. They consider themselves above the law and make no attempt to conceal

Scores of unsolved robberies using weapons, a rape and several assaults are believed to be their work. In one attack, a man's pelvis was shattered.

The gang came to the attention of the police when the hus-band of Dame Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecu-

THE RECORD

1995 after handing over his wallet. Mr Mills had been approached by half a dozen youths as he got out of his car near his home.

They demanded money and Mr Mills decided to co-operate. Before he could, he was kicked, thumped and stabbed. The knife had severed an artery in his stomach and he

Bernard Enerio was convicted of his part in the crime and had his six-year sentence reduced to four on appeal. Gregory Jananto was jailed for eight years. Learco Chindamo, who killed Mr Lawrence in an attack seven months later, was questioned but not charged.

in December 1995, Mr Lawrence was murdered as he went to protect a pupil outside the school who was being beaten with a dumbbell. Chindamo and Christopher Gan were convicted for their part in that crime.

Twelve days before that murder. Chindamo and others made an unprovoked attack on a student, Jonathan Roberts, in Oxford Street, smashing a bottle over his head. Chindamo was the only tions, was stabbed in a street one prosecuted for the crime. robbery in north London in He was jailed for three years











Above, from left: Ramon Quiambo, Bernard Enerio, Calville Angol, Gregory Jananto and Christopher Gan. Below left, Learco Chindamo

Truants who learnt the ways of easy violence

LEARCO CHINDAMO, now 17, arrived in Britain aged nine with his brothers Rocco. now 14. and Wolfgang, 18. both part of the gang. His father, Massimo, a Mafia mobster, is known as Acid Man after his favoured method of attack, and the young Chindamo developed a free and easy way with a knife to impress his father.

His mother, Pacquita Torres, 46, moved to London from the Philippines, leaving her children with an aunt. when a relative told her of the good life to be had on state benefits. The children

Semi-literate after years of truancy, Chindamo taught younger boys in Camden, North London, how to use knives and coshes. An intelli-gence test in 1995 placed him in the bottom 9 per cent of the population.

Gregory Jananto, 18, has never before been named for his involvement in the stab-

the trial that ended yesterday. He once smashed a bottle over a fellow pupil. "He was a nutter," said one member of staff at St Richard of Chichester School, Camden.

Roland Ramos. 18, was part of the hardcore of Filipinos in the gang. He thought nothing of brandishing a knife.

Ramon Quiambo, 18. was one of Chindamo's closest friends at school. His Filipino single mother had no idea of her son's links with crime.

Calville Angol was 18 at the time of the rape, and on bail for other offences. He was of very low intelligence and regularly hung out around King's Cross.

Adrian Henry, a 6ft. 17-stone Afro-Caribbean, was in the care of Beatrice House, a privately run children's home Finsbury Park, North London at the time of the rape, when he was 14. He was his room at the home.

Edwardo and Allan Agum, brothers aged 16 and 15, lived in Hackney, East London, but joined the gang through the close-knit Filipino commun-ity. Their mother, Egtelita, who was separated from their

leaving them to wander for hours through the night. Nei-ther brother can make himself understood in English. Timothy Davis. 17, lives with his deeply religious Ven-

father, worked long hours.

ezuelan mother and sister in Clerkenwell, Central London. She was at a loss to understand how her son became involved in crime. Nicholas Mavrides, 16, was

blamed by the rape gang for them getting caught. He told his mother of the crime and she told the authorities.

On the night after the rape Leon McClean, 15, was recorded by security cameras laughing and joking. The

disorder and attempting to pervert the course of justice. Witness lives in fear after doing 'one good thing in my life'

A FORMER gang member who did the "one good thing in my life" and testified against the killer of the headmaster Philip Lawrence is living in fear of his life (Lin Jenkins

Antony Garcia's recollection of the killer's confession, given in a smoke-filled pool hall, helped to convict Learco Chindamo and gave

unravel scores of other crimes. He has been repeatedly threatened, abused, chased and attacked. A panic button installed in his home allows him to summon the police at will, but he is concerned that it could prove useless in a determined police clues that enabled them to effort to kill him. Those who have

taunted him, chased him, pulled a knife on him and sprayed threatening graffiti over the door to the block of flats where he lives have not been apprehended. Wherever he goes, he is aware of a lurking

run concurrently with

his detention for the murder. Youths with affiliations to

the same gang came to the attention of police in Septem-

ber 1996 when a 32-year-old

Austrian tourist was gang-

raped, thrown into a canal and left for dead. The mother

of two had gone for a late-night stroll from her hotel

near King's Cross during a

shopping trip to London. One of her attackers, Alan

Agum, then 14, was the only

one of eight who denied the

crime, forcing her to give evidence at the Old Bailey in

Calville Angol and Edwar-

do Agum were among eight

youths sentenced to ten to 12

years for their part in the

crime. The others, all mem-

bers of the same gang, were Agum's brother Allan, Leon

McClean, Timothy Davies, Adrian Henry, Nicholas Mavrides and another Colom-

bian youth who cannot be

A month after the rape,

members of the same gang at-

tacked Antony Garcia shortly

before he was to give evidence

at the Old Bailey against Chin-

damo for the murder of Mr

Lawrence. Ramon Quiambo, Jananto and Roland Ramos

were prosecuted for violent

named for legal reasons.

April this year.

Aftab Jaferjee, prosecuting at the latest trial, said: "He had the courage to give evidence against a murderer. Life for Mr Garcia was

His life was bound to become fraught with an ever-present menace of threats and lurking violence." Mr Garcia, 20, who works in a shop, said: "I have not led a good life, but I do one good thing

and my whole life is a mess." Police know the identity of some of those behind the harassment. but do not have sufficient evidence to bring them to court. Mr Garcia was chased out of Euston station in January by some of the gang, who said: "You are going to die this year." In April he was mugged in a park at knifepoint. Keys to his house and car were taken and he was told: "We are going to do you.

you grass." Graffiti sprayed on the communal door to the flats where he lives read: "How many lives do you have?". The question was written on the day Chindamo was sentenced. Last month he was called to the telephone at work, and threatened by an anonymous caller.

When police stopped his car in May as he drove home from seeing relatives in Southend. Essex, they found a baseball bat in the boot, adapted with a metal spike in the

top. Two wooden staves were under the footmat. He said he needed them for protection and was cautioned.

Detective Superintendent Brian Edwards, who led the inquiry into the murder, told David Farrer, QC. the Recorder: "He has changed his accommodation, which has alleviated the problem, but he still feels very vulnerable."

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On the other hand, there are Renault cars which are defining the future for people; cars like the Renault Scenic which, thanks to its mould-breaking design, has been voted Car of the Year 1997. Together, these achievements illustrate the one ambition which inspires Renault engineers: to take your driving experience into the future. Renault, FIA Formula One World Constructors' Champions for the sixth year running.



Art trade to see vast changes after Sotheby's inquiry

THE \$11-million investigation into allegations that Sotheby's smuggled works of art will not result in any member of staff losing their job. But the com-pany claims the conclusions will radically alter the way it

It had commissioned two independent law firms to conduct an internal review. handing over thousands of pages of records to be analysed in an investigation that lasted ten months.

Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York and Slaughter and May in London examined more than 8,000 transactions during 1996, interviewed more than 200 employees and produced findings that will have far-reaching implications for the art trade. Changes in their code of conduct means they will always announce in the saleroom when an item has

not found a buyer. Despite the thoroughness of the investigation, the review copies released to The Times and members of Sotheby's staff extended to only eight pages. At first glance, the contents seemed couched in vague terms, praising for example the staff's co-operation and noting how accusations about smuggling in the media had been "troubling".

There was, in fact, a split within Sotheby's over whether the full findings should be published. "Blame the lawyers for that decision," Henry King, a senior partner with Davis Polk & Wardwell of

New rules for making bids and training in

the law are likely, reports Dalya Alberge

tions and observations were far more decisive and drastic than anyone had expected. Sotheby's will not sell any-

thing with a dubious prove-nance and staff will be educated in international law. The lawyers found: "Resources that had been devoted to education, training and compliance issues were inadequate, given the complexity of the business and the international legal environment in which the company operates around the world today."

The auction house has appointed a worldwide "compliance director" and developing a compliance department "to oversee and implement internal rules and es are adequately trained in the rules. The review noted the confusion over some countries having legal restrictions over any art or antiques, not just to material that could be classified as cultural heritage; and others

handling imported works of art goes further than the company's legal bilities. Dede Brooks. Sotheby's chief executive, said that America does not recognise the export laws of coun-tries other than Mexico, Peru and Canada, meaning that it is not illegal to sell objects that were illegally exported from their country of origin. In taking this unprecedented de-cision, they were setting an example that she expects other auction houses and dealers to

The review suggests that most of the accusations made by Peter Watson in the Dispatches programme and his book refer to incidents that occurred many years ago.

The Channel Four undercover film involving the 18th-century Italian Old Master was made in 1996. Mrs Brooks insisted this was "a one-off incident".

The review notes how specific policies and controls needed to be strengthened and Sotheby's is tightening up its entire code of conduct. It has, for example, introduced a more detailed warranty on contracts in which the owner reassures them that the property was legally exported and legally imported. "Chandelier bids" — in

which an auctioneer pretends to take non-existent bids to create a buzz of interest - will no longer be possible.



Italian 'smuggling' dossier sent to Scotland Yard

By DANIEL McGRORY AND DALYA ALBERGE

ITALIAN police investigating allegations that art treasures were smuggled to Britain for auction have now sent a 300-page dossier to Scotland Yard.

Their II-month inquiry is believed to reveal the concern in Italy about the increasing number of art works illegally taken to London and European cities for sale.

An undercover operation earlier this year, revealed in The Times and

by Channel 4's Dispatches programme, traced how a Sotheby's Old Masters expert in Milan helped deliberately evade export laws to get an 18th-portrait for sale in London. At the same time police in India are still investigating the theft of antiquities after an expose of how auction houses encouraged the looting of national treasures.

Sotheby's last night insisted all its staff will give full cooperation to continuing police enquiries. As well as the international allegations against them, Peter V/atson, a British journalist who first exposed the smuggling, also claims that Sotheby's — the world's oldest and biggest auctioneers - rigged its

In February, Sotheby's suspended senior staff after an undercover operation showed Roeland Kollewijn - its Old Masters expert in Milan — arranging for a painting by Giuseppe Nogari to be smuggled Sotheby's London office.

A hidden camera carried by an woman investigator from Channel 4 Dispatches programme filmed

Roeland Kollewijn helping to move the work by the Italian painter. Mr Kollewijn was shown making a series of damaging admissions acknowledging that it was illegal for the portrait — Old Woman with a Cup - to leave Italy. Sotheby's expert is seen coaching the woman. who claims she has inherited a sizeable collection of paintings in

He boasts to the woman how Italy gets "rather upset about losing

ltaly, on how to smuggle these works

only natural resource they have ... they don't have oil or whatever so they are very strict". He says such practises are "happening all the

Investigators from the Dispatches Sotheby's auctioned Indian antiquities smuggled to Britain by Bombay dealers. Last night Sotheby's chief executive Dede Brooks said the auction house had sent a 25-page letter pointing out factual inaccuracies in Mr Watson's expose. She said

The report is welcome, but me questions e left hanging

rt Peter Watson, who made the pation against Sotheby's, tells te lost friends from the art world the publishing his error. some questions are left hanging

IN the wake of the two Dispatches programmes earli-er this year, and publication of my book, Sotheby's Inside Story, which together exposed several acts of wrongdoing inside the auction house. I lost several friends in the art

I had anticipated something of the sort but the reason was interesting. People didn't dispute the unsavoury facts of the expose; rather they implied that some insiders had known all along that such practices went on, were indeed widespread throughout the art world, that many foreign laws were rightly regarded as a joke, and that attention should not be drawn to these matters.

The reaction to the pro-grammes, and the serial-isation of the book in The Times, provoked headlines in more than 50 countries worldwide, and the book has been translated into several languages. That the London art world differs so much in its reaction from everyone else reflects partly on its misplaced sense of priorities and partly on its arrogance. In fairness to Sotheby's, although this same some of its employees down questionable paths, which our investigations highlighted, the report thankfully does not adopt that tone.

However, there are certain hard questions that remain. I: The lawyers, Slaughter May and Davis Polk & Wardwell, who helped the review committee, never interassociated ith the grammes or the book. They sent a number of faxes but never followed through

properly.
2. The attorney who is to head the new compliance department is the very woman who sat in on my interview with Felicity Nicholson, then head of antiguities and, when the

ing in Ms Nicholson's department, raised the issue of Ms Nicholson having another appointment. Viewers of the programme may recall that I then telephoned Ms Nicholson a short while later, from outside the Sotheby's building, to find that she was already back in her office. This attorney thus has some way to go before she convinces me she is the right choice for this job. 4: Most important, however, are Sotheby's activities in relation to antiquities. The company has made it known privately that it intends to take much more stringent attinude in selling goods of doubtful origin. The only conclusion



Watson: author of Sotheby's Inside Story

per cent of antiquities, ethnographical and pre-Columbian objects that are unproven-anced. If Sotheby's really grasps this issue it will have taken a massive step towards cleaning up the art trade and will truly justify the finel words of the letter sent yesterday to all employees. regarding a "commitment to take a leadership role on

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Beatrix Potter rabbit makes record sale

By JOHN SHAW

A WATERCOLOUR by Beatrix Potter intended as a design for a Christmas card sold for a record £38,900 at Bonhams in

London yesterday. It showed a rabbit with an umbreila and basket stepping from his front door into a light covering of snow watched by his wife. The tiny illustration measuring

4 in by 6 in had been estimated to make

The watercolour went to J Reisler, an American dealer, after a bidding contest with a collector. A spokesman said illustration we have seen on the market and we have been dealing in this field for

The drawing was signed with the

author's initials and dated to about 1890; The style and subject matter are similar to other illustrations by her but the watercolour was in good condition and fresh to the market. It came from an

anonymous private source.

A sketch of Ecyore, the donkey from Winnie the Pooh, went for £3,335 against E. H. Shepard on a scrap of paper.

Animal slippers that can go wild

BY IAN MURRAY

THEY may look cute in the shops, but take them home and they can become a menace lurking at the feet of your loved ones. Floppy, animal-shaped slippers were targeted yesterday in a health warning on the perils of Christmas.

Over the festive season, more than 30,000 people are expected to be injured at home by falls, including about 7.500 on stairs. According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, an unspecified number are the result of trying to master the art of walking while wearing cuddly footwear given as gifts.

tripping over wrapping paper or presents on the carpet. slipping on turkey grease on the kitchen floor, or negotiating a staircases after a tipple too many. The society's festive warnings include keeping children away from alcohol and knives, and changing Christmas tree bulbs only with the current switched off. The number of home accidents is about the same as the rest of the year, but the causes are different, said the society.

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me, but Badgers to be culled hangin in trial to , save cattle

By Michael Hornsby, agriculture correspondent

BADGERS are to be culled in trial areas to find the best way of halting the increase in tuberculosis among dairy cat-tle. The culls, in "hot spots" with the highest levels of bovine TB, will last for five years to allow comparison of different culling methods with a policy of no culling at all.

Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, announced the experiment yesterday on the advice of an independent review group of scientists headed by John Krebs, Royal Society Research Professor in the Zoology Department of Oxford University.

"Next to BSE, bovine TB is the most serious animal disease that the Ministry of Agriculture has to deal with."
Mr Rooker said. "The report by the group gives us an updated and authoritative basis on which to proceed.*

The report, commissioned by the previous Government and released yesterday, con-cludes that "evidence strongly supports the view that, in: Britain, badgers are a significant source of [TB] infection in

Professor Krebs said that policies in the 1970s and 1980s of killing all badgers in TB-infected areas had suggested that the culls could reduce the incidence of the disease in cattle. But culling policies had. never been subjected to scien-

Farmers' groups yesterday



knowledgement of the probable link between badgers and bovine TB, but voiced dismay that all badgers in infected areas would not be slaughtered immediately, Farmers are also worried that the limited culling now carried will be suspended outside the trial areas.

The National Farmers' Union called the report a watershed that vindicated what farmers had been saying for a long time, but said that, during the trials, many farm businesses would be left unprotected. Sir David Naish, itspresident, said that while evidence was being collected, many farming families will

be facing ruin

Ministry of Agriculture

officials admit that the current

policy has failed to slow the rise in the number of herds with TB outbreaks, up from 125 in 1991 to 471 last year. Badgers are colled only if they are found on a TB-affected farm and factating sows with young are excluded. Under the most drastic of the options to be tested, all badgers, including lactating sows, will be killed.

The cuiling will be done by trapping and shooting. Ani-mal welfare groups said they remained to be convinced that culling was necessary. "Current control strategies have not worked," Colin Booty, of the RSPCA, said. "We fear that the inclusion of lactating sows in the colls could leave

young cubs to starve." Although the number of herds infected with TB is only about I per cent, of all herds, the incidence of the disease has been increasing and has spread out of South West England to areas with no recent history of infection. A recent study put the badger population at more than 400,000, a 77 per cent increase



Claudio Sillero-Zubiri, the project leader, with a drugged Ethiopian wolf

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Man who keeps the company of wolves

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL IN 1991 a rabies epidemic swept southern Ethiopia. The disease was carried by the dogs used by the Oromo tribe to round up their cattle. From them, it spread quickly, reduc-ing the population of Ethiopian

wolves, once numbered in thousands, to just 400. Not quite a wolf, but the closest living relation to one, the Ethiopian wolf is a benign creature and now one

of the most endangered large mammals in the world. Claudio Sillero-Zubiri has devoted the past few years to keeping the last of these wolves alive, with the support of the Born Free Foundation, one of the two charities nominated by The Times this year for its Christmas appeal. Dr Sillero-Zubiri lives in the wolves' natural habitat in the Bale mountains, south of Addis Ababa, at an

altitude of 3,000 metres. His strategy to save the wolf population is twin-pronged. First, he must ensure that the disease-carrying dogs are vaccinated and cared for better by their owners. The next stage is a breeding programme.

He has already begun a vaccination programme to prevent rabies and canine distemper, working with Karen Laurenson, a Scottish

Earlier this year, he published a children's book, The Wolf Watchers, about the plight of the Ethiopian wolf and the efforts to save it, which has been translated into Oromo. His work persuading the local tribes to take better care of their dogs has the backing of the Ethiopian Government as well as local doctors and vets.

For the captive breeding programme, as much as £200,000 will be needed, much of which will have to be raised outside Ethiopia. The Born Free Foundation (BFF) is in the forefront of the fund-raising efforts. Alison Hood, who handles the Ethio-

said: "We believe the best form of captive breeding involves animals being kept in conditions as close as possible to those they will confront in the wild and with minimal human contact." The Ethiopian wolves will be bred and reared in their natural habitat in Ethiopia before being

Starting with eight to ten wolves, it is hoped that the programme will quickly expand to replenish the population of Ethiopian wolves as soon as possible. If Dr Sillero-Zubiri succeeds in his task, the wolves will be saved for generations.

Leading article, page 19

NEWS IN BRIEF

Exam stress drove pupil to suicide

A pupil at a private school gassed himself when the pressure of studying for A levels became too much, Ampthill Coroners Court was told. Wesley Davies, 17, drove home from Bedford Modern School and parked in the garage of his parents' home in Willington, Bedfordshire.

He left letters for his parents and for his friend, Louisa Knibbs, to whom he had confessed that he was finding school work hard. Verdict:

Rail strike

Services on West and Wales trains still face a strike threat on Friday in a productivity dispute. Industrial action by guards on South West Trains was lifted after the RMT union admitted that ballot papers were mistakenly sent to 20 former employees.

Driver killed wife

An elderly woman died when her husband accidentally ran over her, a Bradford inquest was told. Douglas Gott hit his wife, Frances, 67, while driving at about 6mph near their home in Shipley, West York-shire. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

Carried away

Sailors on HMS Invincible may not be home for Christmas. The carrier was due back in Portsmouth on Friday, but will stay in the Mediterranean until further notice to maintain pressure on Iraq. Crew members have been given free two-minute calls home.

Tongue lashing

The Government has launched a project to promote Gaelic and its traditions in Scotland, and links between Scotland and Ireland. The three-year Columba Initiative, costing £6 million, is also backed by the Irish Govern-

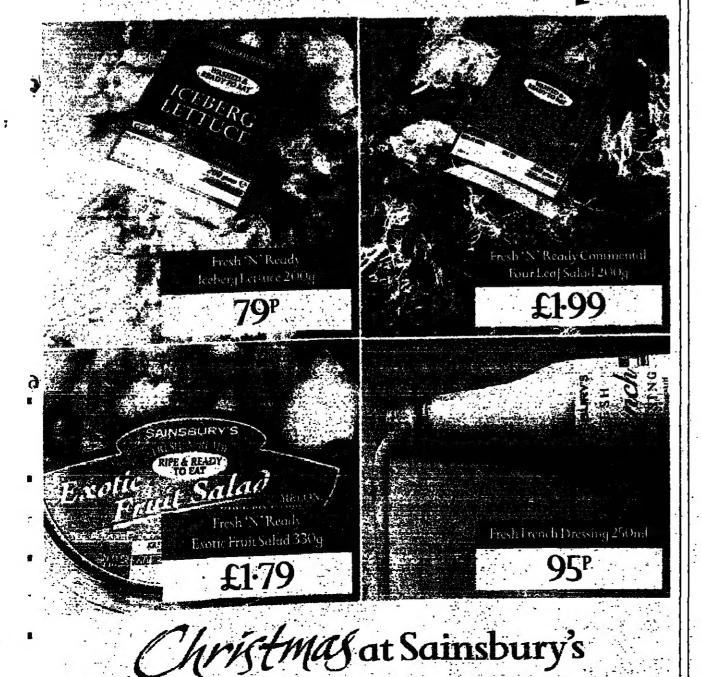
Prank misfires

David Staniland, 19, a Manchester student, took a plastic toy gun into class for an endof-term prank and told his tutor: "If I had got less that 40 per cent I was going to shoot you." He was cautioned after 20 armed police raided his flat

record sal

GUR

Sainsbury's have given hard work the chop.



SIEMENS

A cardigan, how lovely, no really, it's just what wanted and paisley as well, how...unique.

Tory leadership changes will go to historic vote

TORY MPs are to hold a formal ballot for the first time this century to settle the future of party leadership elections.

A decision was expected today on the changes to the election rules but it has been delayed until January by offi-

cers of the 1922 Committee of backbench MPs because of the divided opinion within the parliamentary party. The notoriously autocratic executive of the committee has

bowed to the demand for growing democratisation in the party. Most of the officers the men in grey suits —
 have conceded that for the first year history the changes will be put to the test by a series of votes rather than by the timehonoured route of agreement

With William Hague having pledged to give party members a say in leadership elections and policymaking for the first time, support has grown in the parliamentary party for a system of one member, one vote (OMOV). The move has dismayed the Tory old guard, which dominates the 1922 executive.

The MPs who back the principle of an electoral college are hopelessly divided on the percentage that should be given to party members. The options range from 20 to 35 per cent with 5 per cent for peers and MEPs.

In the past a consensus has been reached by popular ac-

The men in grey suits have caught

the democracy

bug, reports **Andrew Pierce**

clamation. This has meant that Tory backbenchers have endorsed the executive's recommendations with a murmur, rather than a vote.

But with Mr Hague being

determined to modernise the party, the officers of the committee have bowed to the inevitable. One senior Tory MP said: "For the first time a decision will not be reached by a puff of white smoke but by a democratic vote. We cannot bring in changes which are decided to democratise the party with a nod and a wink and no vote by backbenchers. Because there are no clear views, and increasing support for OMOV, many members of the executive have come to the conclusion that it cannot properly guage opinion as it has done in the past."

The committee will publish two policy papers outlining arguments for and against OMOV and the different systems of electoral college. Each MP will be given a ballot paper. The final question will be whether the MPs want to

Several Tory frontbenchers. including Bernard Jenkin, Nigel Evans, Richard Ottoway and Timothy Boswell, have signed a letter to the 1922 executive supporting a change to one member, one vote. Others who signed include the former ministers Peter Bottomley, Robert Jackson, John Horam and Sir Peter Lloyd.

The subject of OMOV was raised with Mr Hague at a dinner of Tory MPs on Monday night. Mr Hague has stayed resolutely above the arguments over the leadership changes but is known to see some virtue in one member. one vote. The system would be used to portray the Tories as a genumely democratic party. It would also reinforce Mr Hague's position as the grassroot supporters tradinally remain loyal to the leader of the day.

The letter, which was circulated by Mr Gray, MP for Wiltshire North, argued that changing to one member, one vote would democratise the party but ensure that MPs retained control over the slate of candidates. "It gives the parliamentary party the right to narrow the field to two or three candidates. It removes the possibility of a small group having disproportionate influence in the electoral college system.

Leading article, page 19

and its Tory predecessors.

They are carrying on with

John McCafferty, leader of



Hurd ridicules Cook's ethical policy 'nonsense'

retary said: "Our foreign

policy must have an ethical dimension and must sup-

port the demands of other

people for the democratic

rights on which we insist for

ourselves." Another video

on the same theme was

cheered at the Labour

difficult to apply consistent standards of human rights

to different regimes. Returning to the video, he said:

"Mr Cook has made his task

slightly more difficult in

conniving in such a video

that was applanded so loud-

ly at the party conference.

Lord Hurd said that it was

conference.

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS HURD poured scorn yesterday on Robin Cook's ethical foreign policy and the video film used to present it after Labour's

election victory.

Lord Hurd of Westwell, Foreign Secretary in 1989-95, warned Mr Cook against paying more attention to packaging than to substance and said that the video would make his job over the next few years barder.

The Labour leftwinger Diane Abbott asked for Lord Hurd's opinion of the video when he appeared before the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. He paused briefly before sayng: "It's riveting stuff, but it's absolute nonsense."

Within weeks of the generelection Mr Cook

Foreign Office by insisting difficult." statement that he would Ernie Ross, the Labour demand new standards on MP for Dundee West, asked human rights. Preceded by a slick film of British achievements, the new Foreign Sec-

him whether he wished that he had set out a mission statement in the style of Mr Cook. Lord Hard replied: "Mission statements were invented after I had been Foreign Secretary. In my day they were called speeches in the House of Commons, but that's rather out

Lord Hurd, who started his career as a diplomat, gave Mr Cook a gentle warning that he should use the restrained language traditionally deployed by the Foreign Office. He said: There is a danger in too much rhetoric and in paying too much attention to packaging rather than to substance."

Why Treasury (needs to relax its rigid grip

one run by the Treasury. However much the Government talks about the importance of decentralisation, the Treasury remains determined not to surrender central control over spending. This will be underlined by the publica-tion tomorrow of the Scotland Bill and has also been reflected in the arguments within Whitehall about how to finance the proposed elected mayor and assembly for London.

The Treasury still wants to fix overall levels of spending. so that local bodies would mainly just have discretion over the allocation of centrally fixed grants. Any freedom of manoeuvre over tax raising would be minimal. The Treasury acts is if any local variation from its spending targets might imperil its fiscal stability strategy. This is noth-ing to do with which party is in power and has been a consistent Treasury policy since the

mid-1970s. The Welsh assembly will merely decide how to allocate a Whitehall grant, while, in addition, the Scottish parliament will also have the power to raise or forgo £450 million which is the equivalent of 3p on the basic rate of income tax. However, not only will overall control over these tax-raising powers remain with Westminster, but there are inherent flaws in the so-called Barnett formula for determining the grant, roughly 97 per cent of total spending.

The 20-year-old formula ensures that Scotland and Wales receive a share of changes in spending for equivalent public services in England in proportion to their populations. This applies only to increases, not the baselines, with the result that Scottish spending per head is 23 per cent higher than in England.

Rather to the annoyance of Scottish ministers in the Goverriment, the Commons Treasury Committee has recently inquired into the formula. Judging by its public hearings, the committee's report next Monday is likely to call for a revision of the formula on the basis of a new assessment of needs.

A Treasury paper last week pointed out that if local authority self-financed expendi-

England over a period and in such a way as to threaten targets set for public expenditure as part of the manage-ment of the UK economy . . it will be open to the UK Government to take the excess into account in considering the level of the block budgets". In other words, don't use your powers to spend, or we will claw it back. The same line was taken in the Government's consultative paper in July, New Leadership for

Within statutory requirements on councils to balance their budgets, the Treasury's insistence on restraining taxing and spending "undercuts local and regional autonomy". This "removes important issues from local democratic decision", as the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) pointed out last week in its thorough report The Greater

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

London Authority: Principles and Organisational Structure, sponsored by the Corpo-

ration of London. The central issue is whether the mayor and assembly should have their own additional revenue-raising powers. The IPPR report recommended that the new body should be allowed to levy transport related charges on congestion and additional parking, while also charging the utilities for road disruption. This sensible idea is opposed by the

Treasury.

In most other countries, local and regional authorities can decide what taxes they want to levy, as well as rates of tax. Local discretion in America does not seem to cause Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, many sleepless nights. The problem about the "tartan tax", like the council tax, is not that it is too large but that it is too small a proportion of total revenue. Talk of reviving local government and devolution is largely empty unless it is accompanied by a genuine relaxation of Treasury controls.

PETER RIDDELL

Labour rebels join Lib Dems

By POLLY NEWTON POLITICAL REPORTER

FOUR former Labour mayors of a London borough have joined the Liberal Democrats in protest at the Government's

benefit cuts for single parents. The four — Gerry Ross, Josh Lamb, Ken Hanson and Linda Hibberd - are Hackney councillors who split from their local Labour Party and joined the breakaway New Labour Group after a row last year over discipline. Mr Ross, 77, a that she could see little differ-Labour Party member for ence between the Government

more than 60 years, said: The cut to lone-parent benefits was the final straw. And it wasn't only what they have done to lone parents, which is absolutely disgraceful, but beyond that, the threat of the further attacks that are being

planned on pensions. "The Liberal Democrats are now the only left-of-centre party and I am delighted to become a member."

Ms Hibberd, who was may-

Tory policies and I'm very unhappy about that." Mr Lamb, who is the present mayor of Hackney, said: "I'm very angry about some of their policies on

the council's Labour group. said: "These people were expelled last year and have been doing everything they can to or of Hackney last year, said back at the party ever since. All this about benefits is

get onwith the best of them



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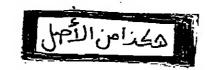


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Rescue summit gives little hope to Asian 'tigers'

A SUMMIT of the shell-shocked leaders of the crumbling former "tiger" economies in South-East Asia ended last night on a sombre note, with scant progress in solving the problems of the region's tumbling currencies. and with little in the way of economic assistance on offer.

Any nation that could help is looking anxiously at its own reserves and, no doubt, remembering slights sustained before at the hands of Daruk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, who seemed to have had the stuffing knocked out of him. "The economies of South-East Asia used to be vibrant and were described as miracle economies," said the visibly humbled and dispirited Dr Mahathir, speaking at the Palace of the Golden Horses, the conference centre.

The venue, which looks half-Las Vegas, half-Turkish harem, seems to symbolise the past decade of excess in South-East Asia, a vision of prosperity that looks like nothing so nauch as an extravagant

They [the economies] are no longer vibrant," admitted the Malaysian leader, who was once the scourge of the Western world, notably Britain. Australia and America. "They are no longer miracles."



Japan refuses appeals to shore up South-East Asia's faltering economies, James Pringle reports from Kuala Lumpur

learnt to temper his words, because everything he said had a direct effect on the currency market. But 'he to portray the South-East Asian nations as victims, noting that "when you are un against forces you cannot fight against, there is

In a tone of resignation, the Malaysian leader said: "We have to accept that in this world there is no equality." He added: "Might is still right, We are not in a position to do anything; we are just the In the past, Dr Mahathir, 71, accused international spec-

ulators such as the financier George Soros, and a hidden "Jewish agenda", of being behind the meltdown. However, sources said that Dr Mahathir's deputy and anointed successor, Anwar Ibrahim, and Malaysian business heads had privately demanded that the Prime Minister tone down his words, because he adversely affected the value of Malaysia's currency, the ringgit, and the

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stock exchange. Yesterday the ringgit continued to fall. Dr Mahathir, asked wheth-

Hashimoto, was present had offered economic assistance, said Tokyo no longer saw itself as the "leading goose among the geese". Japan. whose economy is running at a snail's space, played down its role as an economic super power: it offered no economic assistance but said it was ready to train 20,000 young people from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean). President Jiang Zemin of China promised that Beijing would not devalue its currency which, if true, would help exports from South-East

China and Japan - the latter has even ruled out increasing imports from South-East Asia - only promised assistance through the International Monetary Fund. which has already put together a £61 billion rescue package for Indonesia. Thailand and



Ines Misan, who insists she never agreed to marry the Wall Street trader

Millionaire sues lover for return of \$500,000 gifts

From James Bone in New York

A WALL STREET wheelerdealer who showered a Latvi-an model with gifts has taken the blonde to court in New York to get back the \$500,000 (£306,000) he spent on her. John Lattanzio, 49, one of

Wall Street's most feared traders, is suing his former girlfriend, Ines Misan, who is in her twenties, for money he spent on what he says were engagement presents, including a 9-carat diamondand platinum ring he bought from Harry Winston the jewellers for \$289,275.

The other gifts named in the court action are a Cartier diamond necklace (\$147,220); a diamond ring from Van Cleef & Arpels (\$20,026): a Hermes crocodile-skin purse (\$27,000); and two more Harry Winston platinum rings (one diamond, the other ruhy) that cost a total of

The balding divorced father, once named one of Wall Street's most eligible bachelors, claims the couple were engaged before they broke up last month. But who uses a single name for modelling - says he loved me, but he loved me with obsession" and insists she never agreed to marry him.

He begged her to have his child, she told the New York Post, but he said: "You don't

She added: "This is an

the jewellery back. It's like giving a child a candy and ripping it out of his mouth once he's sucking it ... I get attached to gifts, especially diamonds. I'm a beautiful

viandel viandel oui vitti again: i

Misan, who once starred in film called In the Goldmine, says the mogul sought to buy her affections from the first day they met. She estimates that he spent \$3 million on her, allowing her to use his credit cards at will and buying her gifts almost daily because of his "own insecurity".

Among the other items be gave her were six large flowering orchid trees costing \$2,000 apiece, a Tiffany ring and earrings, designer clothes and a Mercedes

Mr Lattanzio's lawsuit will probably turn on whether the court finds that he was in fact engaged to Misan. New York law says gifts "given in contemplation of marriage" usually engagement rings
 can be reclaimed.

With a court bearing scheduled for next Tuesday. Misan has hired the renowned divorce lawyer. Raoui Felder, and is furning about her former boyfriend's behaviour, "It's not like this is his last penny," she said. When you step out of the style. He's not."

Mr Lattanzio refused

French adore 'les rosbifs' but * English disdain the 'frogs' FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French are fond of the British in general and Brit-ain's Prime Minister in particular, while the Britons have a much lower opinion of the French and almost no opinion. whatever of their premier; according to a new French.

The poll, carried out by Sofres polisters and published in Le Monde newspaper yesterday, suggests that while most French people may no longer consider Albion perfidious, the feeling is not quite

While more than 50 per cent of French citizens said they had a "largely favourable" view of the British, only 35 per cent of Britons felt the same way about the French and some 20 per cent declared outright "antipathy" towards our continental neighbours.

The gulf in political appreci-ation was still more marked. Some 82 per cent of French people said they had a "good" "fairly good" opinion of Tony Blair, but just 11 per cent of British citizens had a similarly favourable impression of Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Prime Minister of France, A. remarkable 82 per cent of Britons were indifferent to M. Jospin and expressed "no opinion" at all on France's left-

ving leader: "When asked to state the principal # characteristics - of-French people, 43 per cent of the British cited "cultivation" and 19 per cent "creativity". Less flatteringly, however, only 8 per cent considered French people "resourceful" or "amusing", just 7 per cent pointed to "honesty" as a French trait and a tiny 4 per cent considered the French to

be "courageous".

More than a third of the 1,000 Britons over 18 polled in the survey described French people as "arrogant", one quarter called them "cold and distant" and one in ten went so far as to label the French "greedy and hypocritical". .

The French sense of savoirvivre was identified by 70 per cent of Britons as the best aspect of French life. French people, when asked

to identify the best of British customs, opted for afternoon tea, the monarchy and pubs. The survey was jointly commissioned by Le Monde and the French television programms Marché du Siècle (Sale of the Century) which will tonight screen a programme entitled "Swinging London", exploring the question of why young French people are crossing the Chan-nel in increasing numbers at

find work. ☐ Francs fall: A gang of armed and hooded robbers yesterday attacked an armoured van on a motorway in the Paris suburb of Taverny, escaping with an estimated Frio million (£1 million) in cash. Several shots were fired during the hold-up and one of the guards was

wounded. (Reuters)



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Red Cross calls on

states for funding

Geneva: The International Committee of the Red Cross faces a record deficit of SFr58 million (£25 million) for 1997 (Peter Capella writes). Cornelio Sommaruga, its president, appealed yesterday to Western governments to face up to their

duties as conflicts grow. He said: "If you exclude Britain, a

generous supporter, you come to establish that countries

such as Germany, France and Italy cover less than 2 per cent of our total needs." More than half of the contributions are

now made on condition they be used in particular countries. The ICRC said the trend would hamper its operations.

New York: Tourists visiting Disney World in Florida got an unscheduled performance of *The Lion King* when a 400lb lioness escaped from a private zoo (James Bone writes). Nala.

named after a character in the Disney film, escaped from the JungleLand when workmen entered her cage to build a

platform to keep her out of the water left by torrential rain. Police said she was very dangerous. Although her claws have been removed, she still has all her teeth.

Abortion challenge by Pope

Rome: The Pope told the new US envoy to the Vatican.

Corinne "Lindy" Boggs, 81, that abortion was a "deadly anarchy" that risked subverting the idea of justice cherished

by America's founding fathers. In his first address to the

Ambassador, the Pope took up the most divisive issue between the Vatican and President Clinton. (Reuters)

A new health scare has surfaced that could spell the end of

Japan's love of whale meat (John Vincent writes). A report in

Neumicology and Teratology reveals that seven-year-old

Faroese children whose mothers were exposed to

methylmercury from seafood, mainly from eating the meat of pilot whales, have suffered significant neurological damage.

Belgrade: A court sentenced 17 ethnic Albanians to jail on

terrorism charges in Serbia's Kosovo province. The

defendants, whose terms ranged from four to 20 years, were

charged with membership of the Kosovo Liberation Army,

murder and attempted murder after attacks on policemen.

French bosses pick leader

Kosovo jails Albanians

police stations and refugee homes. (Reuters)

Paris: The French employers' feder-

Whale-meat health scare

Disney comes to life

WORLD IN BRIEF

return .000 gifts

Mandela bows out with tirade against whites

NELSON MANDELA yester-day signalled a shift in African National Congress policy away from racial reconciliation to an attack on South Africa's "liberal" whites for their failure to participate in the economic and social transformation of the country. He also gave a warning that rightwingers were plotting to

overthrow his Government. In his valedictory opening address to the ANC's 50th national conference, Mr Mandela, who will resign as party president this week, said many whites "adhere to the openly racist proposition that a South Africa led by the ANC, and no longer under white minority rule, will inevitably sink into failure and disaster".

in an angry speech which took four hours to deliver, Mr Mandela said whites had defined national reconciliation, a central bedrock of ANC policy over the past three years, "as being characterised by such measures as would compensate the white minority for the loss of its monopoly of political power by guaranteeing its privileged positions

He blamed widespread crime on a "counter-revolunetwork" which "bases itself on those in the public administration, and others in other sectors of society, who have not accepted the reality of majority rule".

This group aimed to encourage crime, steal money, arms and ammunition from the state, hide sensitive infor-

Sam Kiley in Mafeking hears

the President lament failure of reconciliation

build "intelligence machinerles as well as armed formations".

The speech was arguably the most radical in Mr Mandela's career and had the hallmarks of having been written by his successor. Thabo Mbeki, author of most of the outgoing president's speeches, and who will be elected unopposed to the top party post this week.

The counter-revolutionary network ... is capable of carrying out very disruptive



Mbeki: may have been

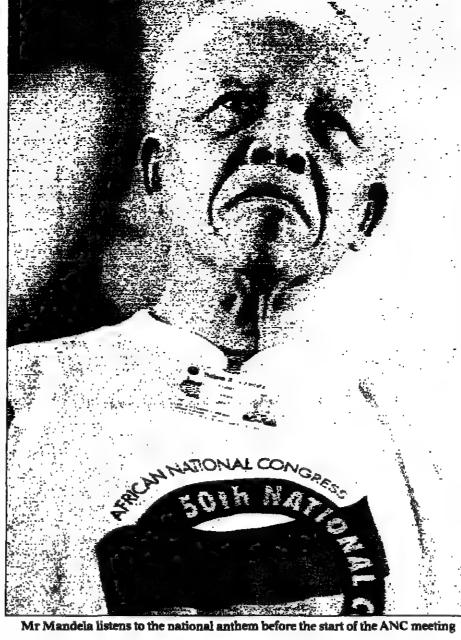
success by the extent to which democratic order," Mr Man-

Mr Mbeki is known to have raised the subject of the slow pace of economic change in South Africa with Tony Blair on a recent visit to London, where he complained of the complacency of many of the main South African corporations about a new order. Mr Mandela's attacks on

whites included a warning

that, while the ANC no longer backed nationalisation, large companies were falling short of their "responsibility" to take part in the economic transformation of South Africa and that they would be expected to explain their business decisions. The media also came in for a drubbing from Mr Mandela, who was dearly preparing the ground for Mr Mbeki's presidency of the party in the run-up to the 1999 elections. "The bulk of the media in our country has set itself up as a force opposed to the ANC ... this media exploits the dominant positions it achieved as a result of the apartheid system to campaign both against real change and the real agents of change ... led by the ANC. The majority has no choice but to rely for information and communication on a media representing the privileged minority," Mr

John Battersby, editor of the South African Sunday Inde-



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be the party bible for the next two years. It is a very grim picture. There does not even seem to be a real commitment to a free and independent

press, whatever his criticisms of it may be," he said. But Mr Mandela spared no

greeted with cheers from the 3,000 delegates who will decide party policy for the next three years. Non-governmental organ-

isations, universities, unions, and even parts of the ANC were dressed down for having failed to grasp the nettle of

their membership of the party "as a means to advance their

transformation and falling

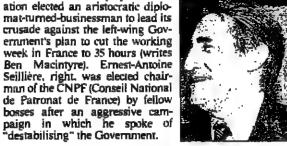
under the spell of white-

minority interests. Some ANC

members had fallen into the

trap of "careerism", seeing

therefore its lack of readiness to



bosses after an aggressive cam-paign in which he spoke of "destabilising" the Government. Doctor caught by the tail

New York: A doctor was convicted of trying to extort £3 million from McDonald's by planting a fried rat's tail in a meal from an albino rat, the same type of animal that Michael

Reproaches born of frustration bode ill for democracy

. By Sam Killey

NELSON MANDELA'S speech yesterday struck a chord within his own party, and many of his criticisms of whites were fair, but he revealed a new, intolerant face of the railing party in the face of criticism, which bodes ill for the long-term future of

lysts pick over his words for clues to future economic policy. They will find little to feed fears of a reversal by the ANC to the days when it advocated that the state should control the means of production. Mr Mandela's address was an expression of frustration by party leaders with the attitude of many whites that their responsibility for the future of

Party insiders said yesterday that

"shocked and insulted" by the refusal of the business sector to admit that it profited from apartheid when major corporations were asked to testify to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission earlier

"No one is talking about nationalisation. But when those bastards said that apartheld had actually cost

money and had little choice." an ANC minister said yesterday.

The testimony of many groups at the commission over the past 18 months has clearly been monitored by the ANC and found wanting. Mr Mandela said evidence at the commission had revealed the "unwillingness of white society in general, including white politicians, busiment in the maintenance and perpet-

make its own voluntary contribution to the creation of a truly non-racial and non-sexist democracy". His vitriol was not merely re-

served for whites but included an attack on the media and went on to show that, from now on, anyone who is not entirely for the ANC will risk being tarnished as "racist". "counterrhetoric in 1967. In a nascent

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mila Polakova repairs a statue of Marcus Aurelius in the 500-year-old Palazzo Altemps which features, at right, a chapel. The gallery will house one of the finest collections of Roman art in the world

Treasures of ancient Rome restored to public view after half a century

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AFTER a 13-year restoration costing E7 million, a 500-year-old Italian palazzo containing one of the finest collections of Roman sculpture and art in the world opened its doors yesterday.

Many of the works, from the celebrated Ludovisi collection, have languished in storerooms since before the Second World War and are being displayed for the first time in more than 50 years.

the heart of Rome, comes after the reopening in June of the Villa Borghese and its art gallery after a similar long closure. Both moves are a triumph for Walter Veltroni. the energetic Deputy Prime Minister and Culture Minister, who vowed to wage war on "inertia, neglect and vandalism" in the state-run arts when he came to office last year. Yesterday he set "Anglo-Saxon" deadlines for restoration, with Pompeii and the Uffizi

Gallery among his next targets.

The white marble masterpieces

patrician Roman's private gal-lery", as La Repubblica put it will form part of "the world's largest archaeological museum", Museum in the ruined Baths of Diocletian and the Collegio Massimo, due to reopen next summer. The sculptures, some restored by Bernini, include a 3rdcentury sarcophagus carved from a single block of marble, with a bas-relief showing Romans fighting the Ostrogoths; a scated figure of Mars; A Gaul committing

suicide with his wife, a companion piece to the Dying Gaul in the Capitoline Museum (both were reputedly kept by Julius Caesar in his villa garden to remind him of bead of one of the Greek Furies (Erinni); and a colossal head of June or Hera — in reality a bust of Antonia Minor, mother of Emperor Claudius, three times life-sizewhich was once an obligator sight on the Grand Tour. Goethe so admired it that he had two copies of it made, one for his house

which can describe it," he wrote. 'It is like a poem by Homer.' Fifteen of the pieces are from the original Altemps collection, formed in the 16th century but

now in the Louvre in Paris and the Hermitage in St Petersburg.

But the bulk come from the 17thcentury collection of Cardinal Ludovico Ludovisi, nephew of Pope Gregory XV (1622-1623), which was also broken up. (The Ludovisi Villa in the Gardens of

dispersed; other sculptures

Aphrodite or Venus rising naked from the waves, held up by two maidens. Found near the Ludovisi Villa in 1887 and bought by the Italian state in 1901, it is thought to date from 5th-century BC Magna Graccia, though some scholars; believe the throne and a similar piece in Boston Museum of Pine Arts are clever 19th-century fakes.

Porcign Ministry, which has given them to the museum. A Ludovisi bust of Marcus Aurelius found in the Prime Minister's office has also been donated.

The Palazzo Altemps, used as a seminary from the end of the 19th century and then as a depository, was acquired by the state 15 years ago in a state of neglect, its elegant rooms partitioned and its frescoed walls painted over. Built in the 15th century, it was first owned by Girolamo Riario, nephew of Pope Sixus IV (1471-1484).

Orphan requests parents as gift

BY RICHARD OWEN

A 15-YEAR-old Italian girl who has lived with nuns since her parents were divorced four years ago has advertised for "standin parents" over Christmas because she cannot bear the thought of spending the festive season

herself as "friendly, with bobbed bloade hair", was Il when her parents split up acrimoniously in Verona. She said in a handwritten letter to local news-papers that she had at first gone to live with her mother, but it was "hell" and she ran away.

She said she stayed at a series of orphanages until she was taken in by nuns at a convent near Padua, 35 miles from Verona.

Neither of her parents had made any effort to trace her, but "perhaps it is better that way, the divorce hurt me so badly". But she was "very de-pressed" after spending Christmas in institutions three years' running, and placed an advertisement in the local newspapers.

It read: "Special offer! orphaned girl, very friendly, enthusiastic and affectionate, would pay up to £15 an hour to a married couple of between 40 and 45 years of age. Must be kind, modern, cultured people who would be willing to become part-time

Newspapers which pub-lished the advertisement declined to give Chiara's surname or put inquirers in touch with her unless they were "genuine foster parents".

Homeless die as Moscow shivers in record freeze

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN MOSCOW

MUSCOVITES , yesterday were locked in a bitter battle with the elements, as bitter cold gripped the capital, causing deaths and injuries and forcing most people to stay

As temperatures fell to -30C, the coldest recorded Decernber for nearly a century in the capital, hospitals reported a flood of victims, including 50 people suffering from frostbite and hundreds more admitted with hypothermia or fractures caused by slipping on the icy pavements.

At least nine people have died since the cold weather set in at the weekend, one when he was struck on the head by a giant icicle which fell from the top of a high-rise building.

Most of the victims, however, were from the ranks of the thousands of homeless and alcoholics in Moscow, who have little chance of survival unless they can find warmth

Certainly the city authorities seemed to have a strange sense of priorities. While insisting that animals in the Moscow 200 were carefully monitored and cared for, they showed little sympathy towards the homeless.

Andrei Varchena, a spokesman for the municipality, said that it was not Moscow's business to provide shelter for the destitute, many of them alcoholics. "They should live in houses not on the street," he

Fortunately, that attitude was not widespread. Although Russians are accustomed to freezing weather, the first cold snap of the year is always taken very seriously. Primary schools were closed yesterday and parents urged not to allow small children outdoors.

The elderly and sick were also warned to stay inside, not least President Yeltsin who is recuperating from a bad cold

was stable but ordered him not to leave his sanatorium.

For the rest of the city, the residents were forced to carry. on regardless. Motorists spent hours with jump leads trying to coax their rejuctant cars into life. Traffic policemen continued their duties, and in a customary sign of hardiness. most refused to let down the ear flaps on their fur hats.

The Kremlin's guard of honour had their shifts reduced to one hour, even though the guard boxes, where they stand are heated

Possibly the toughest Russians to emerge from this annual test against the ele-ments are the babushkas (grannies) who man the stalls in the city's outdoor markets and can last for hours with only the occasional cup of tea to keep them warm.

Forecast, page 22



Icebreakers on the river in Moscow, where temperatures fell to -30C yesterday

Slum dwellers suffer in India's chilly north

FROM CHRISTOPHER THAMAS IN DELBI

SNOW in the Himalayan foothills has sent a chill throughout the northern Indian plains, driving urban slum dwellers to burn anything they can find - rags, leaves and old tyres - covering almost every city in smog.

There are cold-related deaths every winter in north-ern India because of poor nutrition. Huts made of mud and brick, the most common materials in the countryside, are thermally efficient in winter. But in the cities, ramshackle dwellings made of scrap material offer little pro-

tection from cold or heat. .There has been torrential. unseasonal rain in north India, adding to the misery. Parts of Kashmir are under snow, and Delhi temperatures are low for December

Eastern nations take Nato pledge

THE three countries earmarked for Nato membership in 1999 passed the first chall-ange yesterday when alliance forcign ministers formally signed the accession protocols which will amend the 1949 Washington Treaty to allow Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary to join the security organisation.

HOWEVER, EVEN 22 THE MINIS ters from the three former Warsaw Pact nations were welcomed by their alliance counterparts, existing member states set out their stall for the next wave of membership applications which could transform the security organ-isation, into a family of 22 countries.

France and Italy spoke out for the inclusion of Romania. Slovenia and Bulgaria were also being referred to as the next in line for Nato membership.

However, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, speaking at a meeting of Nato foreign ministers, emphasised that it was too early to start naming countries for the next phase of the alliance's enlargement Yesterday in a moving cere-mony at Nato headquarters,

the foreign ministers of the pledged their full commitment the alliance. Jaroslav Sedivy, the Czech Foreign Minister, described the signing as "a crucial moment for the Czech Republic". Mr Cook said: "We are now seeing the curtain coming down on the Iron Curtain."

Last night China criticised Nato's expansion and said it was a United States campaign as the world's sole superpower to dominate the global political stage and strengthen defence ties with Japan.

Balkan blizzards bring snowfall chaos

FROM TOM WALKER IN SARAJEVO

THE first snows of winter engulfed the Balkans yesterday, with most regional capitals experiencing sub-zero temperatures and chaotic driving conditions.
Roadsides were littered with the customary casualties, with ageing Yugos and Zastavas particularly affected.

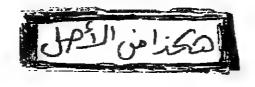
Thermometers dropped to -3C (26.6F) in Zagreb and -5C (23F) in Belgrade. Roads were treacherous in eastern Slavonia, the former UN-protected Serb stronghold now reverting to Croatian control. The heaviest snowfalls lay in an east-west belt, stretching from Vukovar and Osijek to Banja Luka.

Ironically, the blizzards arrived too late to save a ski event outside Sarajevo. Alberto Tomba, an Italian skier, had arranged a "slalom of peace" on mine-cleared pistes for early next week, but cancelled the event over the weekend amid warm weather. Sarajevans will now have to entertain themselves with the unscheduled visit of President

Security preparations for his whistlestop tour were under way, with American helicopters making practice runs low over the city centre. The Nato Stabilisation Force said that, despite the freezing weather, military operations

were continuing as planned. Bonn: When the German Army's brass band could not strike up national anthems at a formal ceremony yesterday to welcome Ukraine's Defence Minister. Olexander Kuzmuk suggested an old Ukrainian remedy to his German coun-terpart, Volker Rühe, He said vodka, liberally applied to both musicians and their instruments, was the best way to thaw out a frozen military band. The German band could not play because the keys of their instruments had frozen solid in the cold snap. (Renters)

From America Advanced medicine for bein Nothing is proven to-work better for headaches



A glamorous model says she can

end the corruption of Caracas

politics, writes Gabriella Gamini

who regards Baroness Thatcher as her "role model", as their next president. Although Irene Saez, 36, crowned Miss Universe in 1981, took up politics only six

years ago she has emerged as the favourite candidate to win next November's presidential elections. The latest opinion polls show that the independent candidate, who has swapped her revealing dresses for sombre suits, is way ahead of her rivals, with 43 per cent of voters' support.

VENEZUELANS, weary of

veteran politicians who are

tainted by corruption scandals, appear to want a six-foot

blonde former Miss Universe,

"I want to follow in the footsteps of Margaret Thatcher and revolutionise my country's political scene," she said in an interview with The Times. "I propose to lead with an iron fist, but wearing a velvet glove."

Carlos Fermin, an establishment politician and candidate of the ruling Copei party, trails her with 17 per cent support, while a former army general, Hugo Chávez, who has staged two violent coups, has 10 per cent support.

Señora Sáez has won the hearts of Venezuelans, even though she has yet to unveil her policies on how to alleviate abject poverty and curb high inflation. "My policies are a secret, I can't say," she told a press conference in Caracas

Her campaign speeches are riddled with simplicities and cliches. "I am committed to Venezuela, where there is so much class division, so many

struggles and injustices. I feel my people's suffering and think we have to humanise politics and the globalisation of the economy," she said in a speech. "I want to educate 12 million poor people and clamp down on corruption."

Her campaign symbol is a Barbie Doll lookalike of her, sales of which have soared in the run-up to Christmas. Television stations in Caracas report that Venezuela has been struck by "Irenemania".

The male-dominated political establishment has so far fobbed her off as "politically naive".But her glamorous looks and her success in world beauty pageants remind some of them of the good old days when they lapped up profits from an oil boom in the 1970s. The fall in world oil prices in

the 1980s and decades of mismanagement have led to the present recession and inflation. The people, however, are avid fans of beauty pagearits. The country has won four Miss Universe and two Miss World titles in 20 years and there are special academies for young girls training to be future Miss Worlds.

Señora Sáez, who turned to modelling at 16 but has also studied social sciences at Caracas University, proposes a move away from politics of the past which has seen President Carlos Andres Perez being ousted from power in 1994 after accusations of corruption. Rafael Caldera, 82, the current President, has been unsuccessful in implementing free market reforms and is

She claims to have proven



عكذ أمن رالإمل

Venezuela falls for Miss Universe

Irene Sáez signing autographs during her campaign for mayor of a Caracas district in 1994 and below, being crowned Miss Universe in 1981

her leadership skills with a successful four-year term as Mayor of the district of Chacoa, where she introduced her own police force and traffic wardens and reduced criminality and traffic congestion. But Chacoa is an elite district and her rivals say that

her successes have not benefited poorer areas of the district. They are also likely to accuse Señora Sáez of nepotism as her five brothers run her campaign. Señora Sáez

banker who was among a hundred people forced to flee Venezuela after being accused of swindling investors. Caracas: Freddy Rojas

Parra, 55, Venezuela's new Finance Minister, has less than a year to turn the economy around before presidential elections in November 1998. Presently, seven out of ten Venezuelans live in poverty, widening from six out of ten last year. The market-

has also had an affair with a friendly industrialist, sworn in on Monday, pledged to cut spending. bring inflation under control, and boost pro-ductivity both in the public and private sectors.

Previously Trade and In-dustry Minister, he took over the job to defuse a growing political crisis between Congress and the Administration. The economy is expected to finish this year up 5 per cent followed by more than 6 per cent next year. (Reuters)



Humans give boost to ostrich sex life

UNIVERSITY researchers in i Israel have discovered a novel way of improving the poor fertility rate of farmed ostriches after observing that the birds were more attracted to their human handlers than to members of their own species.

Their find resulted in the creation of a bizarre type of ménage-á-trois arrangement in which the handlers remain on the scene without interfering with a sexual encounter between two of the flightless birds. As The Jerusalem Post disclosed on its front page yesterday, far from being a matter of entertainment "boosting estrich reproduction is an economic issue, given that the country is now second in the world, behind South Africa, in ostrich-raising".

The project was run by Hebrew University experts and a professor from Gurion University in the Negev Desert. They found that fertility rates of ostrich eggs averaged only 50 per cent.

The researchers found that the reproduction of the bred ostriches under their observation could be improved by introducing a male and female who were attracted to their handlers, in the presence of one of the handlers. This technique, the academics reported, "enhances their sexual

As the ostriches involved in the experiment mated, the handler collected semen for later use in artificial insemination, which has proved "a more efficient and effective method" than natural reproduction.

US military in fresh battle of the sexes

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

and women should be separated during military training to avoid loss of discipline and calm fears of sexual harassment

The special civilian panel said that, in the wake of sexual harassment and rape charges which have rocked the military, instructors now spent too much time worrying about relations between men and women and too little on basic

The recommendations of the 11-strong panel, appointed by the Pentagon; came as a surprise to service chiefs and were set to re-ignite the simmering controversy over women in the military.

President Clinton and defence chiefs have strongly backed the introduction of more women, in the face of loud opposition from congressignal conservatives. The report is likely to be seen as a setback by advocates of women in the forces, who

A PENTAGON panel recom- often use the prevalence of women are subjected to less mended yesterday that men mixed training as a sign of demanding tests.

progress.

If accepted, the recommendations would bring the army. navy and air force more closely into line with the Marine Corps, which has kept men and women strictly apart throughout training. It integrates them only after boot camp, believing that this removes distractions and helps women's morale. The panel, headed by Nancy

Kassebaum, a former Republican senator from Kansas. was set up in June by William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, after the high-profile rape and sexual assault cases at Maryland's Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The 27-page report also recommends that the services should do more to protect women from harassment and have more female instructors. It also says physical training standards should be raised across the board, to quell concerns of conservatives that

Women have been steadily

forces over three decades and now make up 14 per cent of the 1.4 million in service. But the policy of combining men and women in training is less than five years old in the army and navy, although the air force has been experimenting with it for 21 years. In the panel's view, instruc-

tors were so worried about new harassment charges that they spent much of their energy trying — often in vain - to enforce a policy of "no talk, no touch" between the sexes. Although the two sexes do not share rooms, they could often be stationed in the same barracks.

The panel is happy to see mixed training in the class-room and in the field. But it considers it essential that the smallest core units - army platoons, navy divisions and



Clinton names his new Buddy

THE speculation that has plagued America for a fortnight was finally brought to a close last night when President Clinton named his new chocolate Labrador puppy. Buddy (Tom Rhodes writes).

The Clintons, after what was described as a "high-level effort", were said to have chosen the name in part because of President Truman's famous observation "if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog", but also in memory of Buddy, a favourite family friend from Arkansas who died earlier this year.

Nanny faces life after 'Woodward defence' collapses

her care after unsuccessfully wrong with Matty". trying the "Louise Woodward Donna Gist, 35, faces life

imprisonment after a jury in Wheaton, Illinois, found her guilty of murdering Matthew Hendrickson, six, in January 1996 while the baby's parents slept upstairs. Gist, a licensed nurse who was hired to look after the boy for the night because he suffered chronic digestive problems, had argued at the six-day trial that the baby died because of earlier injuries — the same argument used by lawyers for the British au pair.

Scott and Kathleen Hendrickson, the boy's parents, testified that Gist was caring for their son in a downstairs bedroom when they heard a cry of hunger from the baby at around 3.30am. Mrs Hendrickson said she was going to get out of bed, but her hus-band convinced her to let the

AN AMERICAN nanny has nanny take care of it. At been convicted of first-degree murder for killing a child in told the couple "something's The prosecution said the

baby had suffered a swollen brain and bleeding eyes characteristic of "shaken baby syndrome" while in the nanny's care. Gist's defence team. however, offered medical testimony casting doubt on the time the injuries were inflicted and suggested that someone else might have been responsible. They pointed out that Mrs Hendrickson had a history of depression and panic attacks. and had just undergone three weeks of intensive treatment at a local clinic.

The defence strategy paralleled that employed by lawyers for Miss Woodward, who was released last month with a sentence of "time served" after the judge overturned a jury verdict of second-degree murder and substituted a manslaughter conviction in the death of the infant Matthew

No room at the inn for the Pope in 1999

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BETHLEHEM

THE Pope was informed yesterday by Bethlehem's new Roman Catholic Mayor that there will be no room at the inn if he wants to visit the West Bank town of Christ's birth for its ambitious millen-

nium celebrations. Launching Bethlehem 2000, the Palestinian self-rule town's \$187 million (£117 million) millennium blueprint, at a meeting with foreign journalists, Hanna Nasser said: "I have advised, and I shall advise, the Pope to stay away if there is no solution to the political problem and an end of Israel's annexation of east Jerusalem.

"Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is dreaming if he thinks that there can be peace in this region if the Palestinians do not get east Jerusalem as the capital of our state," he said. Without that, no lasting peace is possible for Israel; no peace with the Palestinians, no peace with Jordan and no peace with Egypt."

The outspoken mayor, 61, revealed that he had given his message to the Pope - who had expressed strong interest in a Holy Land visit before 2000 — when the two men last met in Rome in September.

"There is no question that the Pope could pay even a private visit under the present circumstances where Israel is in occupation of east Jerusalem where the Holy Sepulchre, the site of Christ's crucifixion, is situated," Mr Nasser said. "As a head of state, he could not come here privately. My advice to him is stay away until there is a political solution."

Mr Nasser's surprise intervention two days before Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader. is due to unveil the Bethlehem 2000 logo at a special ceremony near to Manger Square wrecked hopes that all the leading Christian churchmen could meet here in a grand ecumenical gesture on or before Christmas Eve. 1999.

But the mayor - appointed by Mr Arafat despite Bethlehem's now overwhelming Muslim majority — told reporters that the Archbishop of Canterbury and other church leaders who were not heads of state were still "very welcome".

"The Archbishop does not represent a state, it is a completely different question." Mr Nasser said. "You cannot compare the position of any other religious leader and that of the head of the Holy See."

He claimed his objections to a papal visit were shared by leading Vatican advisers. He pointed out that, because of the sensitivity of the Jerusalem question, even Pope Paul VI -the last Pope to visit the Holy Land in 1964, before Israel's capture of east Jerusalem had not crossed through the Mandelbaum Gate between east and west Jerusalem but entered Israel from the north.

Spotter planes scour Greenland wastes for 'Miss Smilla' meteorite



By NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

DANISH Air Force planes were yesterday searching the icy wastes of Greenland for a meteorite believed to have struck the southern tip of the island a week ago. Reports from fishermen, corrobo-

lance camera at a car park in Nuuk, capital of the territory, say that a flash, lasting two seconds, was seen early in the morning of December 9.

Bjorn Ericksson, first mate on the trawler Regina, said on BBC's World at One that he saw "a very strong light rolling down from the air. It was like a circle burning, a very strong light blue, and the air around the circle was very light green. The light disappeared in the mountains. It is something from

Seismometers recorded a ten-second shock, and there are also reports of a huge cloud of steam rising from the ice cap after the object landed. The impact — if that is what it was was at 63 N, 45 W, close to the settlement of Qaqortoq. From descriptions of the size of the steam cloud, some estimates suggest that as many as five billion tonnes of ice were vaporised, requiring a meteorite or comet which itself weighed a few million tonnes. "According to the accounts, the flash was so huge that we have good reason to believe that this is a giant," said Bjoern Franck Joergensen of the Tycho Brahe Planetarium in Copenhagen.

He said it was likely to be "a one-piece solid meteorite" that crashed. Professor Mark Bailey, director of the Armagh Observatory, said that he doubted the object was as large as first reports had suggested. The chances of finding anything depended, he said, on the speed of entry into the atmosphere. He speculated that the fireball might be linked with the Geminid meteor shower, which occurs annually at this time of year as the Earth passes through the trail of an asteroid called Phaethon.

If any solid material remained after the object landed, it would have been hot enough to melt its way through the Greenland ice cap. which would then freeze behind it The search for a meteorite buried in the Greenland icecap formed the plot of the Peter Hoeg's bestseller Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow. The meteorite is central to the conclusion of the novel. In a finale worthy of James Bond, its deadly contents become the subject of a struggle in a cave where it is secreted.

Christmas Day "Thanks ever so much.

Boxing Day

New Year's Day

Chat as long as you like over Christmas for just 50p.



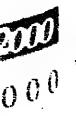
If auld acquaintance be larger, then

to catch up at won't cost more than is. On these three days (as well as eyeryintly and Sunday up to 31 December

250p. After that, you can stay on the phone for as long as you like without paying a penny more. This seasonal offer is just one with Cable & Wireless, FreeCall 6500

charged at the normal rate until it reaches ... on your calls every day of the week. So, for a Marry Christines and a very prosperous New Year, see how much you could save 500 366 quoting RTIMCL







of the many ways we can save you money

Nigella Lawson

Call off the

dogs, Tony

they must have known it.

When you're talking about

making a saving of £50 mil-

lion for the next year, it soon

becomes apparent that such sums could easily be recouped

elsewhere if it were just a case

of money. But it is about ideology — and why fight shy of that? Tony Blair does not want to go on supporting the dependency culture; Gordon Brown is obsessed with the

work ethic. In neither case is

that anything to be ashamed

But the difficulty is, one

dishonesty leads to another.

Harriet Harman's insistence that single mothers would end

up better off just could not be

the case. I understand why

that line has to be taken — it

would hardly look good to tell the truth, which is that no one

minds how much this generation of single mothers suffers

as long as it puts off the

potential next generation. But

as someone who knows how

difficult it is to find high-

quality, unaffordable child-care, I do wish she would stop

invoking so freely and mean-

inglessly the prospect of high-quality, affordable childcare.

undemocratic grumblings of

the government communica-

tions man aside - we shouldn't be sorry that the honeymoon is over. I don't say this because I wish to see the

current administration em-

barrassed for its own sake. I

take the unfashionable and,

for a journalist, somewhat embarrassing view that Tony Blair is a good man, capable of

leading a good government; but dissent is an integral part

splits and disunity, the insis-

tence that they are a political

ill, is indicative of our intellec-

tual and moral flabbiness. An

argument that can't withstand

criticism is not an argument

worth making. And if Tony Blair were really as unable to

bear conflict as his henchmen

make out. I don't believe he

would occupy the position he

The modern obsession with

of government.

But for all that - and the

HAS it come to this so soon? It is, as the song doesn't quite go,

a long time from May to

December, but even so it is

rather too soon for the corro-

sion of paranoia to have set in.

At best, it is unseemly for government whipping boys to

ists, of "suspending co-opera-tion" — and at worst it shows a

terrible lack of self-confidence

combined with the sort of arrogance that can unseat

even those who feel firmly

For God's sake, it took the

Thatcher Government years to

get to this stage. It hardly

reflects well on the Govern-

ment that it has made the

journey in a matter of months. But I'm not surprised at the collective jumpiness. We know

from experience that we are

most sensitive to the criticism

of others when we know, in

our hearts, that we have

If the Government — or its director of communications —

feels so strongly that Harriet

Harman was prevented from

last week on the Today pro-

gramme, might it not be because, deep down, there has

been a governmental disincli-nation to come clean about what that message is?

One of the reasons why the

Government found itself on

forward a dishonest reason: the penny-pinching one. Un-comfortable ministers, MPs

and officials blah-blahed their

way through the old mastras

about difficult choices, painful

decisions: money had to be clawed back; if there were

other ways of doing it as well,

then the Government would.

Worse: the Government

shamelessly tried blaming the

last Government for it, pre-

tending that the Labour ad-

ministration was bound to

take on measures instigated

behaved badly ourselves.



Drill, fill and bill: one reason cited for overtreatment is that there are too many dentists chasing too few bad teeth; the ratio of dentists to the population is greater than ever

Paying through the mouth

Show the same set of teeth to a variety of dentists around the country and the diagnoses — and cost — of the work that needs is my nurse, Diane. Don't hesitate to ask questions."

to be done will vary dramatically. Tony Dawe investigates This was just the reassurance I needed on my first visit part of a survey for Reader's to the busy practice in Bir-Digest, to be published next month. I had similar experimingham's western suburbs. Dave's diagnosis was equally ences in other cities, with a clean bill of health from one comforting: he recommended a visit to the hygienist to combat gum disease and dentist being followed by extortionate demands to repair

was a potential problem.

Yet as I travelled the coun-

try, presenting myself as a

new patient requiring a thor-

ough check-up at 22 practices

warned me that a large molar on the top right-hand side of my teeth from others. I had begun by visiting my own dentist in Dorking, my mouth (Upper Right Six on his chart) might require a crown in a few months' time. Surrey, who has looked after my teeth for 20 years, and two Four hours later, on the eminent dental professors. They all agreed I had some other side of the city, I was in another dentist's chair, receivgum disease and needed to see ing a more alarming verdict. thing was fine, although all three said Upper Right Six ing, a new one was required on a front tooth and my gold

crown had to be replaced. The same teeth, the same city, yet two very different diagnoses: one that would cost £50, the other more than £400.

I had visited the dentists as in ten cities, I was told that art of a survey for Reader's several teeth needed new fillings, a couple required crowning and even that a wisdom tooth that was causing no harm should be extracted.

> ome practices acceptional Health Service patient, others would take only private ones. The ratio of NHS and private dentists who wanted to do extensive work on my teeth was similar, at one in four. charged more.

> In the King's Road, Chelsea, I was quoted £430 for a checkup, clean, a filling and a crown. In Swansea, I could have paid more than £1,000 for the work proposed. In

Plymouth, a private dentist joked after giving me a clean bill of health: "I'm sorry I can't take your money off you."

I had expected different opinions. My experts had warned me that some I visited might err on the side of caution and want to replace an old filling before it gave pain. But Professor Richard Elder-ton of Bristol University, who has written many papers on variations in dental treatment. says some diagnoses amounted to "obvious overtreatment".

entists belong to the old school of 'drill, fill and bill'," says Professor Elderton. "If they have 1,500 patients and do an unnecessary filling on each one, they earn an extra "amazed" by the advice to crown one of my teeth, saying it was unnecessary and would make the tooth more susceptible to disease, and thought removing the wisdom tooth

was "unreasonable".

Two reasons are generally put forward to explain overtreatment. First, dentists working in the NHS have suffered government cuts in fees throughout the 1990s and have to make up the money somehow. A surge in demand for dental treatment at the start of the decade blew the the Government's contribution to treatment costs - and subsequent increases below

the rate of inflation. "Dentists get 40p more for an NHS check-up today than they did in 1991, even though costs have risen," says Kate Cinamon, press and parliamentary manager at the Brit-ish Dental Association (BDA). The second reason is that

When the NHS was created. have lost all their teeth.

These statistics are not disputed by the profession but it refuses to accept the findings of surveys such as the one for Reader's Digest. The BDA suggests that differences of opinion between dentists are not unusual, and that one cannot apply "a right or wrong to what is in the end a matter of professional judgment".

If the patient is a regular attender, the BDA argues. then it may well be in the patient's interests to keep a tooth with a small hole under observation. On the other hand, with a patient attending for the first time, it might be in the patient's interests to err on the safe side and treat anything that is wrong.

The DPB has been reviewing the way it investigates fraud and abuse in NHS treatment. The board's dental reference officers carried out more than 50,000 random examinations of patients last year and had minor disagreements with the treatment prescribed In nearly half the cases. Only 3 per cent of these examinations, however, indicated real cause for concern.

Those unhappy with private treatment have nowhere to turn except the civil courts. Private dentistry is a free market, with few controls. The BDA recognises that this is unsatisfactory, and has joined a campaign to introduce a statutory complaints procedure. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, is being urged to change the Dental Act to ensure that private patients have proper recourse

The most important thing is to assess the risk accurately in the first place," says Professor Elderton. "More dentists must put prevention before cure and realise that filling and crowning teeth can in the long term create more problems than they solve." And patients should retain that degree of cynicism reserved for judging other service industries. If your teeth haven't. bothered you and the dentist recommends a lot of work on them, refuse. Then seek second and third opinions.

Can You Trust Your Dentist?

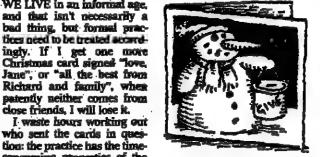
sticky ground last week over the lone-parent benefit cuts is that it lied about why they needed to be made. It put

too many dentists are chasing too few bad teeth. The Dental Practice Board (DPB), the government body responsible for supervising the finances and probity of NHS dental care, reports that the ratio of dentists to the population is greater than ever. The number on the UK dentists' register last year was 28,505, and is expected to rise to 30,000 by the turn of the century.

the number was half that Over the past 50 years the state of the nation's teeth has improved dramatically. Recent decrease in tooth decay in children and fewer adults who

ingly. If I get one more Christmas card signed "love, Jane", or "all the best from Richard and family", when patently neither comes from close friends, I will lose it. I waste hours working out who sent the cards in ques-tion: the practice has the timeconsuming properties of the crossword puzzle and the jigsaw, but with few of their satisfactions. At most I end up feeling feebly guilty that, for

another year running, Actually, that's not true I just feel I should feel guilty. But I do feel rattled. At least



this year, I've bought the cards. Since they're from the Royal Marsden Hospital, I console myself with the fact that I've managed to make my charitable contribution, even if I have failed - yet again to discharge my social duties

Bone of contention

Season's bleatings

A RATHER grand English don at Oxford said to me shortly before I went up and was extolling the wonders and rigours of the general paper that she longed to see it

There was only so much she could take, she said, of knowit all adolescents writing essays about civil liberties. basing their pompous arguments on freedom-depriving iniquities of the imposition of car seatbelts (which just about date-stamps me).

But even bearing her sharp point in mind, I do feel my freedom to be significantly curtailed by the ban on meat on the bone. Sounds silly perhaps, and I am aware there are more important things to worry about, but it surely matters. (In truth, I admit I mind more on culinary grounds than moral ones, but n real life the practical is not inferior to the theoretical, so I don't apologise too much for that, either.)

There are two lines to take here either the problem is much worse than we're being old, in which case we should be given information rather than being protected by insufficiently explained decisions; or this is a panic measure that serves no use except to make

Jack Cunningham feel that he is behaving decisively. But even if we plump for the latter, there is something of the Sergeant Bilko about it all. I cannot help but imagine Phil Silvers striding into a calm room clapping his hands and shouting "Don't panic! Don't

But anyway, the decision has been taken, we were not consulted and it is too late now. But this, surely, is significant: usually when health scares erupt, the public In this case, it is - we have

done the opposite. My butcher told me that as soon as Jack Cunningham announced the impending ban of meat on the bone, he was overrun with demands for oxtail and rib of beef. Before midnight on Monday, he could not sell enough; the demand was furious — and understandably so.

Now, does this seem to you to be a case of people who want protecting? I am all for the regulating of the meat industry: I don't want meat that is disgustingly reared or poisonously fed, and I certainly don't want cover-ups. But this decision doesn't make me feel looked after. It makes me feel anxious. What is going on

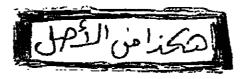
ARTS

Richard Cork picks Christmas books for discerning art lovers. Pages 30-32









Dear Santa, read my printout

Tom Rhodes reports from the American stores where children are licensed to choose, while in Britain Jill Parkin urges parents to fight the click-on, payout spirit of Christmas

'One girl

seemed

to want

every

toy in

the store'

uhrey Keech, a ten-year-old American of discrimitastes. made straight for the Lego interstellar starlighter and pointed his laser-controlled gun at the bar code on the side of the box. After the familiar bleep, he ambled towards the Star Wars collection, casually firing at a Tamagotchi electronic

G.I. Joe was next, then the Galactic Bartle game and the remotecontrolled car by Hasbro, Catherine, his mother, followed while Austin, eight, her younger son, tried unsuccessfully to wrest the gun from his sibling's tight

The Keech family were in Toys R Us in Rockville, Maryland, where they were taking advantage of the gift register recently set up in the chain's Ameri-can stores. As Aubrey zapped each

toy, his choice of gift was picked up by the store's computer, enabling the manager to present his mother with a printout of the 15 gifts her son hopes that he will be bought this Christmas. Prices in his list ranged from \$79.99 to a more conservative \$3.99.

Already thousands of children have registered their wish-list with the computer, enabling

friends and relatives to use any branch to buy a present they know will meet approval. It is perhaps the ultimate symbol of the consumer society that American stores have initiated the "wedding list" for

"Aubrey's list was quite short by the standards of some people who have been here in the run-up to Christmas." says Greg Bibbs. a manager at the store. "We had a uirl in here the other day who seemed to want almost everything she saw. Her list ran to six pages."

The gift register, used only under the watchful eye of parents, itemises names of toys, prices and availability. As soon as a toy has been bought, the computer crases it from the list. Parents can add or delete items at their discretion, screen out toys deemed inappropriate - such as the Mortal Kombat video game which many find too . violent for younger children — and exercise control over birthday

In an age when children's wishes are increasingly driven by the commercial marketing of television shows and blockbuster films from Hollywood, this novel concept reduces the headache of post-Christmas or birthday returns. It also offers older relatives a window into the "must-have" toys of the

This year, the most popular toys in the United States include the Sing and Snore Ernie from Sesame Street, the purple and pink cordless phone from the film Clueless and the Spiderman web blaster.

Only a relative who tirelessly watches children's television could possibly be aware, for example, that the Rapunzel Barbie, golden locks almost touching her feet, is the only Barbie in vogue this

But there is an obvious downside to such instant gratification. By hijacking a role traditionally reserved for Santa Claus, the company has also ruled out any element of surprise. Critics argue that the principle of the Sapphire laser gun, developed from techniques normally used for stocktaking, is a particularly crass method of appealing to both the greed of

children and the laziness of adults. "It suggests in some way that parents don't talk to their parents about what the children want," admits Mrs Keech, a

> nurse who frequently visits the Rockville emporium on behalf of her two sons and their sixyear-old sister. "I think it's probably a more useful tool for parents who want to keep track of what their children want or should be allowed to have."

The marketing benefits, of course, are obvious. Department stores and shops are desperate

for any edge on the competition. and Toys 'R' Us is gradually creating a databank which eleverly accumulates business up and down the country for Christmas, birthdays and the many other holidays celebrated in the United States.

What the sinister side to the gift register demonstrates is a gradual cultural shift in America and, to a lesser extent, in Britain, Rites of passage toys, such as dolls' houses or Meccano construction kits, that once signalled a certain coming of age, are in decline.

here was a time when a toy mattered in terms of the relationship between parent and child or grandparent and child," says Gary cross, an historian at Penn State University and the author of Kids Stuff: Toys and the Changing World of American Childhood. "What has happened is that over the years, the culture of children and adults' memories of their own childhoods have grown further and

further apart." Mr Cross says electronic lists have the effect of dividing children and adults even more, as the register denies any need for negotiation between parent and child. Nowhere is that gulf more apparent than amid the rows of stocked shelves at Toys 'R' Us, a chain of suburban warehouses filled with electronic games, Hollywood spin-

offs and other mass-produced mer-



There is a sinister side to the gift register, which demonstrates a gradual cultural shift. Rites of passage toys that once signalled a certain coming of age are in decline

chandise. The company's showrooms have none of the charm of Hamley's, the famous New York toy shop FAO Schwartz, or the earlier and smaller independent

Most of the mothers making the pilgrimage to Rockville clearly viewed the shopping expedition as they would a trip to the supermarket. That their children can now define wishes in such stark terms not only reinforces the commercial nature of the American Christmas, but it also eliminates the need for children to learn the simple lesson of gratitude.

But for Austin Keech, already addicted to computer games, the laser gun is like manna from

"It's a dream come true. It means we don't have to write lists any he says, attempting to persuade his mother into another extensive trawl of the store. But Catherine Keech declines to engage any further with this latest of American dreams, recognising it for what it is: a weapon designed for children but targeted firmly at



Goats – the alternative gift

HOW about solving your Christmas gift problems one

There is a trend in America. suddenly widespread this year, towards charitable giftgiving that shuns presents of cuous consumption. Instead, it suggests hot lunches for 50 Ethiopian children, a goat for a Mongolian family or a share in a water buffalo for a Cambodian village. Your relatives and friends are left with a card and a memento under the tree, telling them that the gift has been pur-

chased in their honour. A glossy catalogue from the Heifer Project lists the prices, most of them quite modest. and pictures happy Third World recipients. Another organisation, World Concern. equates the gifts most of us expect to receive with what mired in poverty. Thus the cost of a new CD could provide a week of hospital care for a patient in Uganda, a Tommy Hilfiger shirt could stock a fishpond in Bangladesh, and for the price of an expensive handbag you could fund a small business loan in

HERE is a creative way not

to buy more stuff," says Paul Kennel, the president of World Concern. The Heifer Project requires that offspring from its animal gifts be given to neighbours. In this way, the benevolence keeps on growing. Already, 105 rabbits that were given to four Chinese families in Sichuan have grown to 40,000, passed on to another 2,000 families. More corporations are quietly makcauses instead of giving drink or food baskets to their clients at Christmas, according to Wendy Liebmann, who runs WSL Marketing in New

L'Oréal the French cosmetics company, gives generously to Women in Need to help homeless women and children. Revion donates to breast cancer research. Ms Liebmann says: "With the economy doing so well, there is a growing sense of wanting to give something back to those less fortunate.

IAN BRODIE

■ World Concern. 19303 Fremon. Avenue North, Scattle, WA 98133. US, telephone voi 206 546 7201: Heifer Project, PO Box 808. Little Rock, AR 72303. US. telephone 001

How to fight wish-list greed

This Christmas could be the last one for Santa Claus. If Toys R'Us brings its wish-list to Britain and, needless to say, the chain's mandarins are thinking about it - what child will believe that the old man in his red dressing gown is comput-enliterate, online and surfing the Internet?

if they do, six-year-olds will spend Advent Saturdays zapping the toys they covet into a toyshop computer. Only the bravest will admit to writing Father Christmas a letter and watching Mummy post it up the chimney. Not much play-ground cred in that.

Be warned. Nial Forth, press co-ordinator of Toys R'Us, says: The wishlist is something we're looking at for over here next year." Once click-on greed arrives from America, the child who can't sleep on Christmas Eve because he can really and truly hear jingle bells will be replaced by a numan calculafor kept awake by dreams of avance. Action Man and

Nintendo games. You may think it couldn't happen over here. Yet there are already parents out there paying 500 for a 510 Teletubby. Undeniably Laa-Laa. but very likely to grant their

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All I want for Christmas . . . can be found on my computer wish-list from Toys 'R' Us

children a wish-list next year. It's child power at its worst. All parental control will be lost. How many pink and purple Polly Pockets can I take without wanting to drown myself in a butt of cherryade? This year, as usual, I'm

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rigging everything for our three children via telephone calls to grandmas and aunties. Next year ! may have to train Puppy in My Pocket to eat all the Pollies my six-year-old daughter, Rosie, would zap on

to her wish-list given half the chance. So you'd like to limit your son's arsenal? You'd like your daughter to think more than pink? No chance with a wishlist. Mind you, you could use all his swords, laser guns and

of Barbies. With a shopping list drawn straight from television advertisements, they are not going to be clicking on a packet of 12 coloured pencils and coloured

tanks to decimate her hordes

The books, the jigsaw puzzles, the Puzzy Felt - all the presents that might actually

make it as far as the twelfth day of Christmas - will be the great unzapped.

They will go for the things they lose interest in before the first battery has worn out. They'll go for all the hyped stuff, like those nasty Spice

ow Posh is someone whose plastic representation wears next to nothing and is seemingly thumbing a lift? And do you want her in your house? Your small daughter probably does. Click-click. That's boring old feminist Mummy on the Spice

Children should actually be kept out of toyshops, if we're still solvent after Christmas, it will be because ours forget about 80 per cent of the things they've asked for over the past

with banks of computer memory keeping their whims alive.

giving our children total gratification? Let's not psychologise this one, It's just a lot of greedy toymakers who want to take

Forget kindliness. Forget looking for a present that might surprise and delight a child. Click on and pay out. That will be the spirit of

orget gratitude. With a wish-list. Christmas morning can only ever be a disappointment. If you've zapped a whole menagerie of cyber pets, one beeping fish is rather small-scale. Hardly worth a thank-you letter. But perhaps Toys 'R' Us. with its computerised information on buyer and receiver, could start a profitable line in those, too.

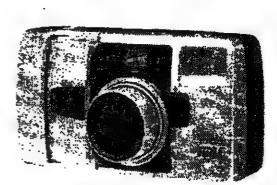
Christmas has long been commercial: gold, frankincense and myrrh don't come cheap. But until now it has always had charm and surprise. Now Father Christmas, who has survived central heating, and beard-pulling in Arndale centres around the country, may not see the millennium unless we, the parents who haven't yet gone

Wish-lists should be boycotted. Requests to Santa should be made by letter or when stirring cakes and puddings. Mince-pie crumbs and sherry dregs should be in evidence on every hearth on Christmas momine

What's more, I shall further tackle this click-on greed with the revival of an old Christmas tradition: the silver-foiled tangerine in the stocking. Whoops of childish glee will be compulsory.

JILL PARKIN

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contention

s bleating

Don't fix our constitution — it's bust

Anthony Barnett says the nation is more revolutionary than Blair

peaceful but profound constitutional revolution is under way in Britain. However, its initiators, Tony Blair and his chief foreman, the Lord Chancellor Derry Irvine, are treating it as so much dirty linen to wash indoors. This is odd. For it is the one part of the Government's programme that has so far sparkled with unblem-

The speed and extent of the Government's achievement is remarkable. Constitutional reform has become a monthly occurrence. This month saw a White Paper outlining a Freedom of Information Act. delivered despite vigorous opposition, in May Gordon Brown announced the effective independence of the Bank of England, something Nigel Lawson had argued for, calling it "a far more useful constitutional reform than any advocated by Charter 88".

in July the Government published its Green Paper on London, promising the capital a directly elected mayor - a constitutional reform of unprecedented radicalism. In August the Prime Minister put himself at the head of the most far-reaching modernisation of the monarchy this century, as he sensed the likely response to the death of Diana, Princess

of Wales. In September referendums on a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly were held and won. In October the Human Rights Bill was published, to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into our law. Long resisted as inimical to our traditions, it will empower judges and give residents of

the UK their rights in court. In November, the Jenkins Commission was established to propose a more proportional system of voting in general elections. A referendum is likely and may alter perma-nently the dynamic of British

So far only one aspect of the

joint pre-election Labour and Liberal Democrat list of commitments has been reneged upon. This is the promise of a statement of principles. The Lib-Lab joint declaration concluded that a "common thread" ran through its proposals, that of "empowering the people". "The new Government," it stated, "should make an early declaration setting out the principles behind its programme of constitutional reform and outlining the more open and modern democracy it seeks to create." Instead, Lord Irvine of Lairg has rejected such a declaration as a mere "piece of paper" and exposed the Government to the Tory charge, pressed by changed, William Hague, that it is

without values and principles. Some ministers (a notable exception is Gordon Brown) dismiss the case for any such principled guide or statement of aims. Tony Blair may have said that Britain needs "a new constitutional settlement to express the new relationship between individual and society, citizen and State, for the world today". But that was before he became Prime Minister. Now Labour ministers feel they are proceeding in a good old pragmatic fashion, keeping the process under

control and changing the con-

stitution in the piecemeal way that it has always been

Few judgments could be mistaken. Reforms more under the old constitution were prophylactic intended to head off calls for further change. By contrast, Pandora has breathed on each of Labour's initiatives.

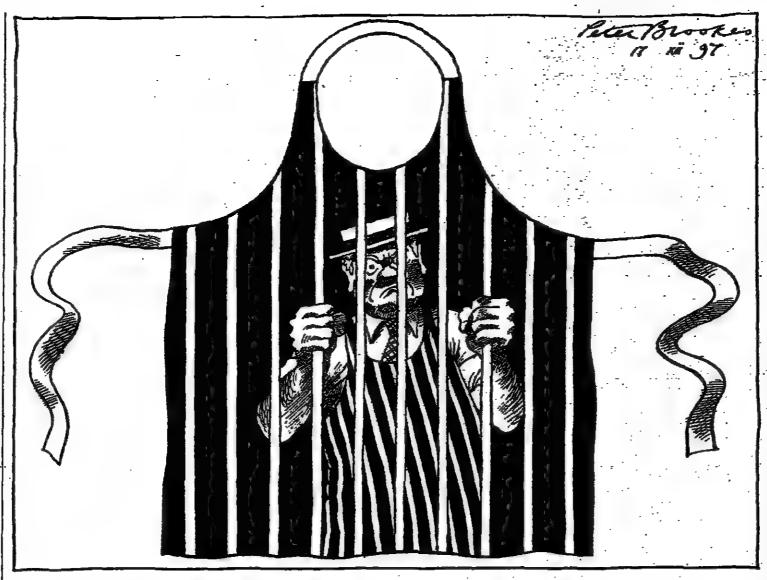
The Scottish legislation will inflame the English question. The London mayor will inspire a dynamic of regional demands. Incorporation of the European Convention has already triggered a debate on the individual's right to privacy versus the rights and free-dom of the press. The reform of the Bank of England has led the Treasury Select Committee to demand the power to make an appointment to the new Monetary Policy Committee. And there is more of the same to come, not least when reform of the Lords begins in the next year or two. The forces of change are being amplified, not diminished, by each new measure; and they are all rendered more dynamic by the field force of the European Union. Instead of the familiar process of amelioration. drawn out over decades, a cataract of initiatives will soon sweep away the old

One reason why this has happened is that the old constitution is well and truly bust. Its advocates' will to resist is spent. Even more important has been an historic change in popular opinion. This was manifested in the May election, which was less an endorsement of Mr Blair than a rejection: first of the Major Government, and secondly of what I have termed "Great Englishness" — namely the ideology of Margaret Thatcher and Enoch Powell. Many Conservative candidates expected to improve their showing by flying its colours. Instead, for the first time since the "rivers of blood" speech in 1968, Powell's once riveting influence withered at

ecently, one member of the Government said to me: "Of course people reform. Who support reform. wouldn't?™ But ten vears ago they did not. The core of Great English populism was the defence of our unique institutions. In the 1970s, referendums in Scotland and Wales were lost. In the 1980s the GLC was abolished quite easily. Voter belief in the system was high. The thrust of anti-European rhetoric in 1997 was based on the assumption that people still love the old institutions and don't want them

That love has died. The public mood is not Jacobin. It wants practical outcomes, not confrontation. This, however, is a sign of its maturity, not its conservatism. Mr Blair has called for a modern Britain. The country is ahead of him and now has a settled desire for democracy, one that will eventually find its expression in written constitutional

The author was the founding director of Charter 88. His book This Time: Our Constitutional Revolution was pub-



Ulster of the Balkans

The road to hell is paved with good intentions. If you go via Bosnia the intentions are gold-plated. You can preen in Washington, lunch in London, dine in Sarajevo and appear on television everywhere. You may wrench your arm patting yourself on the back, but the road keeps rolling on. Only soldiers and taxpayers get to

This week marks the anniversary of the breaking of the first deadline for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Bosnia, in December 1996. The Government is soon expected to announce the breaking of the second, which expires in June next year. This is anticipated in a report from the House of Commons Select committee on Delence. It says the troops should stay there for ever, or words to that effect. Britain now has 5,300 soldiers in the Balkans, half as many as in Ulster, costing taxpayers £243 million a year. When Douglas Hurd sent the first 1,000 in 1992, he promised that their mission was limited to escorting humanitarian convoys. A year later the number was 2,500. Since then the expedition has experi-

enced the usual "mission creep". Bosnia is becoming Britain's second Northern Ireland. In Ulster, military intervention in support of the civil power was to be strictly temporary. That was a quarter century ago. Soldiers, or at least their masters, proved to be poor political soon became unthinkable. Believing themselves the only bulwark against a bloodbath, British politicians developed a mindset in which everlasting direct rule was the only option.

A similar "Jupiter complex" has arisen with the end of the Cold War. Across the globe, national self-det-ermination is a defunct concept. Only democracies are entitled to that privilege and then only if they choose the right leaders, which the Serbs have persistently declined to do. A trusty Western soldier is all that stands between the world's feuding plebs and Armageddon. The imperial fallacy never dies. It is merely transformed into a vague moral imperative parading in a blue beret or an aid agency Jeep.

Two conclusions emerge from the defence committee report. The first is that the so-called Stabilisation Force (Sfor) of 36,000 foreign personnel in Bosnia has become an entrenched colonial power. All civic discipline relies on its presence. It has charged itself with policing, public adminislished by Vintage last week.

British troops have been sent on a mission impossible in Bosnia

tration and even media censorship. Last autumn Sfor seized a television station to insist on "fair" reporting of United Nations activity, in reality to back one side in the Bosnian Serb

Bosnia has become the world capital of interventionism. Pundits can identify an alphabet soup of ICRC, IDC, IFOR, IPIF, MAC, OHR, OSCE, PIC, Sfor and UNHCR. These custodians of the world's collective conscience offer security without responsibility to Serbs, Croat, Muslim and "Bosnian" alike, to war criminals, mafias, black

marketeers. fanatics and decent citizens. They offer huge inflows of foreign exchange. Like all policing armies they are popular a time. The Catholics cheered the British troops into Londonderry in 1969, before the bul-

lets and bornibs began to fly The second conclusion is that, as result of this dependancy, withdrawal can never be contemplated. President Clinton promised that he would have our boys home by Christmas 1996". Congress was outraged when he next said they would stay another 18 months, until June 1998. Now Washington is realising that deadline will not be kept. Britain will have to tag along behind. The select committee has proposed that, rather than set a short deadline (and tell another whopper), the Government should suggest three years. By then everyone may have forgotten deadlines and

our boys can do good work for ever. Forty-one British servicemen have died in Bosnia so far, 14 of them killed in action. They have been shot at, humiliated, taken hostage and left impotent before the taunts of those they were sent to help. Britain produces soldiers well-trained in the delicate art of limited war. They are much prized as moral mercenaries. by Americans wanting to launder their electioneering adventures and by the United Nations wanting to get

off a peacekeeping hook. Yet any soldier must have an achievable objective. British troops in Bosnia had two remits. The first was

police the ceasefire along the borders where the parties collapsed in 1995. The second was to reestablish civil, political and economic life in the new Bosnian statelets, sufficient to avoid further conflict when the troops withdrew 12 months later. The first objective was relatively easy, since all sides had fought to a standstill. The second was impossible. It was a politician's supremacist fantasy, an act of folly in the tradition of Khartoum, the Dardanelles and Vietnam. The Foreign Office and the American State Department seemed

to think "restoring political life" was like restoring bridges and sewers. Worse, the first objective vitiated the second. By relieving the Bosnians of any obligation to police the ceasefire and cement it with compromise, a foreign

resence merely secured a stalemate. Local leadership came to depend on the presence of foreign troops, not on popular consent. Such artificial politics cannot mature or put down roots. Fanatics remain at a premium and moderates at a discount. Thirty years in Northern Ireland teaches us that. Nato is Karadzic's best prop, as British direct rule has been the IRA's recruiting

The select committee bemoans the absence of progress with political stabilisation and worries that civil war may resume. It implies that this is despite Nato's efforts, regarding it as axiomatic that 36,000 foreign troops can have only a benign impact on local politics. The committee nowhere examines other recent interventions, such as Beirut and Somalia, where Western troops led to mayhem, and peace was not established until well after they had left. It worries that the conflict may just be on ice, that the date when Nato "can confidently leave Bosnia to run its own affairs will be indefinitely deferred". Yet the logic of this worry nowhere penetrates the

I believe that British soldiers should not be sent abroad without a . British Empire was acquired in a fit clear military objective and a state-ment of interest. Despite much

hifalutin jargon about "regional sec-urity", troops went into Bosnia to protect aid convoys. That was a charitable interest but not a national security one. Whether these convoys saved more lives than they cost (by falling into the wrong hands) is moot. What is incontrovertible is that American pressure sucked these troops into precisely the morass they were pledged to avoid. If the select committee has its way, they will be there for ever. These troops are not under United Nations command but under Nato, an alliance whose obscurity of purpose is now complete.

The British force has no exit strategy. The Americans are adept at cutting and running from escapades that have exhausted their publicity value. They scuttled from Somalia and have recently scuttled from Haiti. This part of the Balkans is set to remain a Nato protectorate until the Americans tire of it. British troops tend to return home only after a: resounding victory (the Falklands) or when conditions on the ground have become untenable, as in the retreat from Empire. In Bosnia there is no victory. We must await untenability.

ritish people have shown I their generosity towards suffering in former Yugoslavia. That generosity is expressed through aid, private charity and the (grudging) acceptance of refugees. That is a normal humanitarian response. It is quite different from the Government professing a national interest in the internal affairs of another state. British security is not at risk in Bosnia, nor is that of the Nato alliance. Other people's wars are not make-work schemes for diplomats and soldiers. There was no requirement to "nationalise" public horror at events in former Yugoslavia, least of all the fact that President Clinton had an election on his hands. British troops are not meant to fight American elections.

Tony Blair and Robin Cook must soon announce Britain's commitment to Sfor beyond next June. They will take the view that withdrawing from Bosnia would cost more politically in the short term than staying might cost financially. So they will waffle about the nobility of world peace-keeping. They will promise more support for our boys overseas. They will pledge just a few more months, or years, or even decades. The old of absent-mindedness. So, apparently, will be the new one.

Alan Coren



And upon this charge card cry: 'For Ffion, William, and a cruet set!'

Today's is no ordinary column. Today's is special. What makes it special is that it is not a column at all. It is a Readers' Offer. Indeed, it is so special that'l am prepared to describe it as a Special Readers' Offer - in both senses, because it is so doubly special that only special readers will wish to take advantage of it.

It is not, that is to say, for those unspecial readers who ask to be offered nothing more than the rose-girt cottage of their dreams, or the periglobal cruise of a lifetime, or a year's free rootcanal work; it is for those very special readers whose innermost yearnings strive beyond the mere material gee-gaws of this world. What I am offering this happy breed is the unique chance to become an imperishable part of our na-tion's history. Possibly, given a smidgeon of luck in the shape of a fair electoral breeze, our

planet's.
You may, from that last proviso, have now twigged that what makes the chance unique is the blissy fact that, this coming Friday, William Hague is uniquely marrying Flion Jen-kins. The radiant young couple will splice, they will honeymoon, and, after all that excitement, they will hie them home to put their four little feet up in delightful domestic premises piled floor to ceiling with all those wedding gifts which, once they have put their four little feet down again, they will begin eagerly unwrapping to cries of the happiness which, I am sure, each and every one of us sincerely prays will follow them all the days of their life — very probably (and this above all is to be borne in mind, even by those whose sincere prayers may be somewhat alloyed by the thought) into Downing Street, because, as you know, there has never yet been a leader of the Conservative Party who

premiership.

Now, here is the Special.

Readers Offer would you like to be a part of all that, and thus of whatever history has in store? If so, this is what you must do: you must ring The Wedding Shop in Fulham Road, SW3. Someone at the other end will, when indeed where William and Flion have got a little list. I know this, because I have myself just phoned, and I thus also know that there are plenty of afford-able goodies left on that list, and that all you need do to remove them from it and into the premises and lives of the future Hagues is give The Wedding Shop your credit card

did not succeed to the

Think about it. For £126.50, you could send them a Royal Copenhagan vase for £180 you could send them eight champagne flutes, for £200 an Irish linen tablecloth, and for £259 a silver salver; but if any of these is, you feel, too high a price to shell out on a niche in Britain's glorious story, a tenner will buy you, and them, a very acceptable egg-cup.

number.

nd remember, where his-A tory's caprices are con-cerned you never know your luck: while the odds might seem to favour the champagne flutes - Prime Minister Hague offers a gargle to Charles III after one of their weekly moots. the King murmurs these are jolly nice glasses, the PM replies yes, we got them from Mrs Edna Wainwright of Beccles, the entire exchange subsequently appearing verbatim in the PM's memoirs - or the tablecloth, deployed, perhaps, to mollify President Adams at a lunch to discuss Sinn Fein's claim to the Falklands, there is nothing to say that a humble egg-cup hurled at, for example, Michael Howard during an acrimonious working breakfast, might not precipitate the demise of Toryism in what could very well come to be known as The Eggcup Landslide, and earn its lucky donor an entire footnote, even perhaps a full-colour mugshot, in The Oxford History of the 21st

Be honest, has there ever been an offer more special than this? You do not have to snip anything out, you do not have to fill anything in, you do not have to collect anything up, you do not even have to complete a sentence which begins "I should like my name to be remembered until the last syllable of recorded time because all you have to do is dial and speak. But be quick about it remember, there are only two more shopping days left until history.

Century.

Maggie Moo

BARONESS THATCHER v Alf Garnett. The former PM had a scorching encounter on Monday night with Warren Mitchell, who played the Cockney with bracing right-wing opinions in the television programme Till Death Us Do Part. Over Krug and shepherd's pie at the Christmas party of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, Mitchell adopted his best Alf Carnett accent: "You women should be at home making the sandwiches,"

he told an astonished Lady T. "It's men who should be taking care of the politics. Women are only good for late-night sittings, when they can at least provide cocoa and blankets." A crowd gathered round, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Peter Lilley, the American Ambassador (bemused) and the jovial Alan Duncan, who had effected the introduction.

To their relief, the baroness reacted with equanimity. "What about Florence Nightingale and Queen Victoria?" she asked. Quickly, the two struck up a rapport. "She suggested that we partner up and do a double act," says Mitchell. "We could go around the charity do's, with me telling her where a woman's place is. It would be better than Morecambe and Wise."

 ● ROAST strip sirloin beef, braised lettuce and bonemarrow were the substance of yesterday's



Double act: Mitchell, Thatcher

Room at the Commons. Guests were told by the waiters that they could have everything on the menu except the bonemarrow. "It's off.

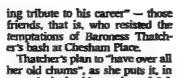
Small portions Party clash

SEIZED by seasonal spirit, John Major took his private office to Shepherd's, the Westminster joint Clarke, always a convivial figure.



Christmas lunch. Last year No 10 was filled with the former PM's co-terie for Christmas drinks. In these more humble times, a table for seven sufficed for John, Norma and his loyal retainers. Fearlessly the gathering ordered several plates of beef rib before the ban on such off-the-bone products. "Delicious," agreed the guests, prompting a familiar voice to quip: "From now on, beef will be like this Government - spineless." So delighted was Major with this convivial occasion he commented: "We ought to do this more often."

LAST night's battle of the parties tested many a Tory loyalty. Ken menu in the Strangers' Dining co-owned by Michael Caine, for enjoyed the toasts of friends pay-



her old chums", as she puts it, in turn clashed with another of Jef-frey Archer's jolly festive celebra-tions. "This tests the market value of the hosts," says one in-demand partygoer. "From what I can gather, people are buying shares in Ar-cher and selling in Thatcher, while Clarke still remains very competi-

● WHILE the rest of his party sniff around new Labour, Lembit Opik, MP. Liberal Democrat, has been



ingratiating himself with the To-ries. "I invited William Hague to come and speak at my next constituency meeting," he says. "I like him and I think he'd go down well in Montgomeryshire." The invitation was declined. "He just laughed."

No way back

RESURRECTION on the set of 007 can be but a dim hope for the ageing lothario, Sean Connery: he is too expensive. There was talk of him playing Bond's father, or coming back as a villain," says the 007 producer, Michael Wilson, "but we couldn't afford him."

Scott's missed

POOR daddy, Victoria Scott, who almost sunk her father, Sir Nick Scott, has resigned from the group that gave her a platform - just when she could have attacked Labour. Victoria has spent the past six years working for Radar, a disability group, but has now left to work with Unicel Victoria gained attention in 1994 by calling for her father — then a Social Security Minister - to resign after he blocked a disabled rights Bill. But she will not now be around just when the Government could be

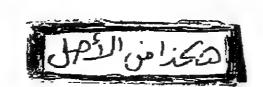


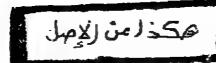
Off the Radar: Victoria

rming to attack disability beneplanning to attack disability better fits. "Victoria was a great campaigner," says a fellow traveller. I am sure we'll see her again.

 CHRISTMAS shopping is ham-pering efficiency of the Home Of-fice folk. Two of them were dispatched to the House of Lords yesterday with briefing notes on the Crime and Disorder Bill for their minister. They stopped to buy some chocolate mints at the House of Commons shop. Prob-lem. They left their briefing notes behind in the shop.

JASPER GERARD







A REASONABLE BID

Sotheby's imperfect inquiry has still yielded worthwhile results

A reputation for plain-dealing may take The appointment of a wholly detached and generations to acquire and can be lost with a single act. The exposure of an attempt by Roeland Kollewijn, a Sotheby's Old Masters expert, to arrange the illegal export of a painting by the Northern Italian artist Giussepe Nogari to London blighted the name of one of the world's leading auction houses. Mr Kollewijn's act, exposed by the painstaking detective work of the journalist Peter Watson and reported in The Times, damaged the reputation of Sotheby's.

At the time, Diana Brooks, the company's chief executive, claimed that the revelations were an "opportunity to demonstrate just how important our integrity is". The steps that Sotheby's has since taken to investigate past behaviour have not been as open as they might have been. But the resolution of future good conduct which Ms Brooks makes in our pages today should go a long way to satisfy critics. Permanent satisfaction will come only from permanently improved. and visibly improved, procedures.

The executive responsible for Mr Koellwijn, George Bailey, responded to the original allegations with bluster. But Sotheby's directors appear quickly to have recognised the need to overhaul their reputation by conducting their own inquiry into their method of operations. Dealing in antiquities acquired in contravention of the laws of their country of origin lent urgency to the process of reform. Sotheby's proclaimed yesterday that earlier this year, it began to articulate a policy that it will not sell any property which, while legally imported, has clearly been exported in violation of local law".

It would have been better if, having been stung into action by press exposure, Sotheby's had taken the best press advice and held a wholly independent inquiry. We argued that the "most rigorous and wideranging investigation of company malpractice" required "independent investigators".

widely respected outsider, from the judiciary or academia, would have more clearly signalled a determination to scour every corner of the stables heedless of any consequence other than the re-establishment of a reputation for the highest standards.

Instead, Sotheby's established a review committee, independent in name but not in every particular, chaired by one of its own non-executive directors. Although much of the investigative work was carried out by two specially engaged law firms, the arm's length of the inquiry from the board was not as long as would have been ideal.

The fate of Mr Kollewijn is still un-resolved, pending Scotland Yard's response to a dossier from the Italian police. It remains to be seen if this dossier contains evidence of other illegal acts. Of 8,000 other transactions investigated, irregularities were detected in about 20. Sotheby's argues that the interests of those who took part in these transactions in good faith preclude further disclosure. Sceptics will probably have to concentrate now on how Sotheby's planned new mechanisms work in practice.

While the process may not have been perfect, aspects of the outcome are encouraging. A pledge not to sell any work which may have been exported contrary to the laws of its country of origin, even if it can be sold legally in the US, should go some way to limit the reprehensible pillaging of sites of historic interest in less-developed nations. The establishment of an improved education programme for staff and the creation of a new compliance officer with a roving watchdog brief should encourage adherence to the highest standards. Taken together, these steps should help to restore Sotheby's reputation and could, with profit, establish a new benchmark for best practice among auction houses. The benefit to all London's auction houses of cleaning their business is clearer now than it has ever been.

TORIES FOR DEMOCRACY

The radical option is the best Conservative choice

The 1922 Committee has been in deep deliberation on an issue that is central to the Conservative Party's fortunes, internal reform and the future election of the leader. When these discussions started it appeared that the range of options under active consideration was disappointingly narrow. Sir Archibald Hamilton, on behalf of parliamentarians, had robustly insisted that MPs retain a controlling interest. It seemed that ordinary members would receive, at most, a share of between 25 per cent and 35

per cent in an electoral college.

There is now evidence of an emerging enthusiasm for democracy. A large number of MPs, including many first elected in May, have determined that a mass party will not be built on modest outreach. They have rallied behind a proposal, first set out in The Times, that would allow MPs to narrow the field to a shortlist of two or three figures but offer the final choice to the entire membership. The 1922 Committee will come to a conclusion shortly after Christmas. It even appears possible that, for the first time in its history, the parliamentary party might make that decision through a ballot rather than mysterious "consultations". This would be a precedent for enhanced participation.

Under the rules as they stand, Conservative MPs have absolute control over the structure of leadership selection. Any initiative that is adopted in Westminster will be placed automatically in the overall package that will be presented to the party. No alteration or amendment is permitted. The Tories in the country will be offered change on a take-it-or-take-it basis. The whole reform agenda - including many items that should command widespread support would need to be thrown out in order to reopen the leadership question. That rejection would hardly reflect well on, or be

welcomed by, William Hague. The case against an electoral college is powerful. It contains the inherent risk that a leader would fail to obtain a majority among either MPs or the members. The Labour Party has been fortunate to have averted this disaster. In 1981, its machinery came within a millimetre of making Tony Benn the Deputy Leader despite the fact that two-thirds of MPs had preferred Denis Healey. Labour has found that this model does not end argument over leadership selection. The proportions awarded are inevitably arbitrary and therefore open to continuous challenge. The same would be true for the Tories.

The Times alternative would avoid these difficulties. Only those contenders - three at most - who had secured at least 25 per cent support from their colleagues would enter the decisive ballot. If Labour had used this system 16 years ago Mr Benn would not have qualified for the final contest. A fullscale campaign among ordinary members would follow. The victorious candidate could demonstrate support in the House of Commons and Conservatives in the country. This would be a combination unmatched among the other parties.

The radical option would be also be the safest choice for Conservatives. The incremental approach supported by the old stalwarts would simply store up trouble for the future. The new formula would also secure stronger support for the rest of the reform project. It would symbolise the Tory transition from narrow elite to national electorate. Mr Hague's stated aim of a million members for the millennium would acquire additional credibility. The 1922 Committee should concentrate on 2002 and what it can do to advance the party's prospects. That requires a 100 per cent—not 35 per cent—commitment to democracy.

CRY WOLF IN EARNEST

This is the next large mammal due to vanish from the Earth

role in the Christmas story, not even by the fables and iconography of the Ethiopian) Orthodox Church. But this Christmas readers of The Times are being given a chance to rescue it from extinction.

For the second of our Christmas appeals for charity we have chosen the most endangered canid left in the world. Not more than 400 adults of the species survive high in a. few mountain ranges: the Ethiopian wolf is on track to become the next large mammal to vanish from the world. Since 1991 a rabies epidemic and canine distemper have been spread to the wolves by the wild dogs used by the Oromo tribe for herding their cattle. Thousands have been wiped out. Hybridisation and other diseases of domestic dogs have taken their toll. The wolf's Afroalpine habitat is threatened by the encroachment of high altitude subsistence agriculture and overgrazing. And the steady advance of man has introduced new forms of death by traffic

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4년 11년

accidents and shooting. The Ethiopian wolf, a genuine small wolf rather than a large jackal, is the closest living relation to the wolves of Arabia and Africa. It is a scavenger and a nuisance to farmers rather than a threat to man. And its sur-

vival is possible, if action is taken now. ation is introducing a three-year programme chance for the Ethiopian wolf.

and the same of the same of

The Ethiopian wolf is not usually allotted a to save the Ethiopian wolf. This includes vaccination of domestic dogs against rabies and distemper, education of the mountain tribesmen in responsible dog ownership, and captive breeding of the wolves in their natural habitat. There the species may breed to survive in its social grouping of a wideranging pack animal, protected from the pressure of human beings.

A wolf is an unusual beneficiary of a Christmas appeal, because of its black reputation in fables, fiction and parables. It is not as cuddly to the imagination as an otter nor as wonderful as the elephant. But wolf's threat to man was always grossly exaggerated. And the survival of the Ethiopian species on the planet is now on the line. The money needed for Born Free's programme to save the Ethiopian wolf is only £200,000.

Giving to a huge charity can seem like trying to dose the beneficiary with eye-drops from a tenth-storey window. From such a height the prognosis and results of the medication are difficult to assess. This charity is small enough for its projects to be specific and their effects to be evident. It is large enough to make the difference between survival and extinction. Beside the ox. the ass and the sheep around the Christmas manger, the wolf is an unusual candidate for As we report today, the Born Free Found Christmas benevolence. But this is the last

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Risks and realism in beef warnings

From Mr Malcolm Oliver

Sir, The Department of Health, presumably acting on the advice of its medical advisers, believes that the risk of transmission of CJD from potentially infected blood products is so slight that it is merely advising hospitals not to use the supplies in question, and has decided not to contact the patients involved because of "the enormous burden" that would result from telling them that they have a remote risk of contracting the disease (report, December 16).

The Ministry of Agriculture, however, also acting on the advice of its medical advisers, believes that the similarly slight risk of contracting CJD from beef bones is sufficient to require the withdrawal of the product. and also to impose "an enormous burden" on beef-on-the-bone eaters by telhing them of their remote risk of catch-

ing the disease.
Surely they cannot both be right?

Yours sincerely, MALCOLM OLIVER, 26 Green Lane, Purley CR8 3PG.

From Sir Julian Rose

Sir. Professor Colin Blakemore's assertion (report, December 12) that young children should shun beef and lamb in favour of chicken seems finally to rule out any flicker of hope that "science" might be acting in the public interest as regards food safety.

Chicken has been responsible for the highest number of poisoning inci-dents of any meat in the UK food chain for the past decade. Not surprising when, in stark contrast to beef and lamb, over 90 per cent of all poul-try meat is raised and slaughtered under highly intensive and inhumane factory-farming conditions that result in half of all birds being contaminated with salmonella.

A by now thoroughly confused public has a right to know — particularly since government hides the information — that farming systems do exist that never feed beef or lamb or even chickens on the rendered remains of their own kind.

Professor Blakemore's contribution adds to the epidemic of tunnel vision that has overtaken so many scientists

Yours sincerely, JULIAN ROSE Hardwick Estate Office. Whitchurch, Reading RG8 7RB. December 13.

From Mr Neil Datson

Sir, The death of Mrs Angela Neath's brother (letter, December 13) was a tragedy and, if preventable, a scandal, but it must not be used to stifle reasoned debate about the beef-onthe-bone ban, any more than the victims of speeding motorists should be allowed to dictate speed limits.

If we accept the supposition that new variant CJD is linked to BSE we must further accept that the link is with cheap manufactured products in the 1980s and early 1990s. These were made from the less salubrious parts of (occasionally infected) old dairy cows "beef" only in the technical sense of being derived from bovines, and as like to today's prime meat from healthy young beef cattle as a milk float is to a limousine.

Furthermore, the victims of new variant CJD were not forewarned. Nobody has any excuse now not to know that a committee of scientists stulate that they are running a 1 in 1.1 billion chance of premature death by drinking a bowl of oxtail soup, or eating a T-bone steak. Curtailing freedom on such odds is an abuse of

NEIL DATSON. Glebe Farm, Spelsbury, Oxford OX7 3JR. December 13.

From Mr Paul Perrin

Sir, I was very surprised to read that No 10 would be throwing away the 15lb rib joint that was presented to Mr Blair by the British National Cartle Association (report and photograph, December 16). As the joint was uncooked, what was to prevent the meat being removed from the bone and cooked separately?

P. PERRIN. 95 Trevelyan Road, Tooting, SW17 9LR. December 16.

Children last?

From Professor Ronald Davie

Sir, On Friday, December 5, I attendad a debate in the House of Commons on children with special educational needs. The particular focus was a recent government Green Paper on this topic, which by common accord was the most important review in this area for the past 20 years. From my position in the Strangers' Gallery, the number of Members I counted in the Chamber throughout the debate ranged from seven to 15.

I was struck by the contrast between the attendance for this topic and that for foxhunting, the week before. Does this indicate MPs' scale of priorities?

Yours truly, RONALD DAVIE (Educational and child psychologist). Bridge House, Upton. Caldbeck, Cumbria CA7 8EU. December 7.

Problems in store from benefit cuts

obligations.

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH RAY.

Flat 2, 66 Regency Square, Brighton BN1 2FF.

From Mr Peter Turner

From Councillor Shirley Virando

Sir, I am grateful to the "rebels" (they are better called men and women of principle) for voting against the Government's reduction of support for lone parents (letters, December 9 and

Until recently I was a lone parent, and had been for many years. I am also a Labour councillor and, as my main reason for standing was the previous Government's constant attacks on single parents, I find it particularly difficult to understand why this Govemment is continuing in similar vein. If lone parents, the disabled and

others who are victims of discrimination and in poverty, cannot look to the Labour Party for support, and get it. who can they turn to? I hope the Government will learn a lesson from this vote, and consider carefully what they do on the issue of disability benefits.

I would also suggest that all Labour MPs who voted with the Government should reflect on why they joined the party and examine their consciences.

Yours faithfully, SHIRLEY VIRANDO (Chair of Hillingdon Equal Opportunities Forum). Members Room, Labour Group, Phase II, Civic Centre, Uxbridge UB8 IUW. December 12

From Mrs Elizabeth Ray

Sir, The term "single mother" is misleading, as it brackets the feckless and irresponsible mothers — of whom there are some — with those who are single not from choice but circum-

Many such produced their children when they were in a happy marriage or steady relationship, but now find themselves alone through divorce, de-sertion or death. Their children have already suffered the loss of a father. and to put them into the care of someone, however kind and efficient, who is not their mother, or make them into latch-key kids, cannot make their lives more settled or secure.

If mothers have to go out to work they will need full-time employment to make it financially worthwhile. Unless they have particular skills or qualifications, which many do not, employers will be reluctant to give Sir, Mrs Verney Sergeant (letter, Dec-

ember 13) champions wartime lone mothers, who would just "get on with it" and not "whinge" like their counterparts today, but there is a fundamental difference in the two conditions. Wartime mothers were likely to be surrounded by their families. living, if not in the same house, then in the immediate neighbourhood, and would have received the traditional support that families used to provide in so many different ways.

them good posts when they might have to take time off to fulfil lamily

As a retired social worker, I know

only too well the long-term social

problems that an insecure childhood

can cause. Many single mothers

might like to return to work but feel

their first responsibility is to care for

their children and give them the se-

curity they need, and they should be

helped in this rather than penalised.

in comparison, we now lead no-madic and lonely lives. Our families are spread far and wide, too remote and preoccupied with their own worries to be able to provide any effective help and support.

The loss of our social and family fabric is a major contributor to today's welfare problems.

Yours faithfully, PETER TURNER, Huntingtons, Theydon Road, Epping CM16 4EF. cm164ef@aol.com December 13.

From Mr J. R. Sharp

Sir. The point is not whether those in receipt of child benefit, pensions, etc. are free to refuse them (letter, December 15), but whether the less altruistic who do not need them should be free to accept them.

Yours faithfully, JOHN R. SHARP. 55 Twining Brook Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle SK8 5RJ. December 16.

Sir. Our ancestors abandoned tradi-

tional timber construction for housing

with the advent of the Industrial Revo-

lution (report and leading article, Dec-

ember 11). That revolution provided

cheap energy to use with our natural

·clay resource for brick manufacture:

most of our hardwood forests had

As a result, UK housing stock is

previously been lost to shipbuilding.

somewhat at odds with concerns over

carbon-dioxide emissions, accounting

for some one third of our annual ener-

gy bill and indirectly responsible for the release of an estimated 80 million

tons of carbon dioxide into the atmos-

phere. To build in the necessary ener-

gy efficiency for the future a return to

a timber structure for domestic house

construction, used for 90 per cent of

low-rise housing in most developed

countries, could reduce significantly

our energy demands for domestic

directed toward those unseen ele-

ments that can add real value to a

From Mr John H. Park

Renewable energy

From Dr Gabriel Alexander Khoury

Sir. I am a founding member of the UK Solar Energy Society, set up by Dr Mary Archer in 1973. In 1978 I demonstrated, in a paper in New Scientist, that it is possible to achieve a 100kph flight speed in an airship powered by solar cells without any on-board fuel. It is also possible to supply Europe's entire energy needs from solar cells covering a relatively small proportion of the North African desert - politics

and security issues apart. Environmentally aware scientists and engineers have long known that long-term sustainable energy policy cannot be based on a limited and polluting fossil-fuel resource (letters. December 1, 4, 10, 15). Yet, sadly, in the early 1980s the US reduced its renewable energy R&D budget nearly tenfold, to less than \$100 million per annum, because of the drop in crude oil prices, thus demonstrating that its previous interest was a kneejerk reaction to the energy crises of the

The current problems of air pollu-tion and global warming are obvious consequences of this lack of long-term vision. Governments of industrialised nations should develop policies to encourage - albeit nearly 30 years late - the gradual introduction of renewable and clean sources of energy.

Yours faithfully. G. A. KHOURY. Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, December 16.

Bowled out

From Mr Mike Foley

heating. if British houses were insulated to Swedish standards, heating bills

could be cut by up to 90 per cent. A four-bedroom house with a structural timber framework, constructed in the UK in 1990 for an energy efficiency exhibition, cost £55 a year to heat in its first two years. Developers' energies should now be

Yours faithfully. J. H. PARK (Proprietor, The Wood Consultancy). Suite 8, St Albans House, 40 Lynchford Road, Farnborough GUI4 6EF. December 16.

Department of Civil Engineering, imperial College Road, SW7 2BU.

Sir, I was fascinated to read of the

latest demonstration of male chauvin-

ism in sport by the English Indoor

Bowling Association when they de-

clined to fulfil a fixture against the

English Bowls Players' Association

hecause the EBPA team included two

women bowlers (report, December 9).

where men and women can compete

against each other on an equal footing

perhaps this is what frightens Mr

It would be interesting to reflect

upon how much his attitude and that

of his colleagues towards the women

may change should the EIBA ever wish to dip into the funds of the

National Lottery - only available if

Business letters, page 27

men and women are treated equally.

Letters that are intended

for publication should carry a

daytime telephone number. They

may be sent to a fax number -

0171-782 5046

e-mail to: lettery@the-times.co.uk

13 Pollards Close, Goffs Oak,

Hertfordshire EN7 5JP.

Yours faithfully.

MIKE FOLEY.

December 10.

Bill Fowler, President of the EIBA.

Bowls must be one of the few sports

Woodrow Wyatt

From Dr Julian Lewis, MP for New Forest East (Conservative)

Sir, May I add a postscript to your comprehensive obituary of Woodrow Wyatt (December 9), which rightly noted his role "close to the heart of the revolution which took place in British politics during the 1980s". It was he who in 1984 identified the

weakness in the Trade Union Act of that year, which failed to make postal ballots mandatory for key union elections. This was the start of a fouryear campaign, in conjunction with Aims of Industry, the Freedom Association and Policy Research Associates, which ended in success in the 1988 Employment Act. Far-left ballotrigging was struck a mortal blow.

Equally, Woodrow's joint campaign with Lord Orr-Ewing led to stricter provisions for political impartiality being written into the 1990 Broadcasting Act. These formed the basis for judging complaints about bias in political programmes.

I shall never forget the excitement of working with this dedicated and courageous man, whose achievements in undermining the anti-democratic left were second to none.

Yours faithfully, JULIAN LEWIS, House of Commons. December 9.

Rural deprivation without use of cars

From the Bishop of Dorchester and the Director of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council

Sir, Mr Martin Pawley wrote from Oxfordshire (letter, December 8) to say that "only a tiny percentage of rural households are without the use

of a car". This must be challenged. With the decline in public transport, a car has ceased to be a luxury and become a necessity in rural areas. But the fact that the vast majority of rural households own a car (many more than one) should not obscure the fact that a significant proportion of those who live in the countryside have only very restricted or indeed no access, mainly because another member of

the household takes the car to work. The last census (1991) indicated that 22 per cent of households in Oxfordshire had no car and 1995 research in the rural north of the county revealed 13.2 per cent of households without a car. A recent study of deprivation in the county (The Other Oxfordshire, Margaret Moodie, 1997) confirms what the Reverend Nick Read pointed out (letter, December 13), that frequently it is the disabled, the elderly, young mothers and low-income families who suffer from what planners call "locational disadvantage" or "spatial deprivation", but which means

they do not have access to a car. It is ironic that the experience of many rural organisations indicates that deprivation can be at its harshest in the more affluent villages. Organisations such as the Rural Housing Trust indicate that the need for social housing is greatest in these areas.

At a time when the countryside is under threat from many quarters and when the future of rural organisations such as the Rural Development Commission are under threat, it is important to recognise that not all rural dwellers are affluent.

Yours faithfully. TANTHONY DORCHESTER. JOHN HARDWICKE (Director, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council), Holmby House, Sibford Ferris, Banbury OXI5 5RG. December 13.

Garden dumped

From Mr Philip Lowe

Sir. You report today that a retired couple who transformed a Nottinghamshire rubbish tip into a garden been ordered to uproot their work.

Is this happening in the same country where it is proposed to build 2.2 million homes on farmland and in the green belt in the next 20 years (report. November 13; letters, November 21,

Yours faithfully, PHILIP LOWÉ, 7 Lillys Road, Newport, Lincoln LNI 3DH.

From Dr Ronald Smith

Sir, I have just read with near disbelief the bureaucratic decision of Rushdiffe Borough Council to destroy the result of eight years' work by Mr and Mrs Leadley.

Have these jacks-in-office no com-

passion -- or even common sense? Yours faithfully, R. C. SMITH,

28 Thorney Green Road. Stowupland, Suffolk 1P14 4AB. From Mr Robert Evans

Sir. The manner in which Martin and

Pauline Leadley are being forced to plough up their garden proves the old adage: no good deed will go unpun-

Yours faithfully. ROBERT EVANS. 1304 Falcon Street. Anaheim, CA 92804, USA. b-evans@ix.netcom.com

First things first From Mr S. J. Henders

Sir. The churches' attempt to reclaim the millennium for Christianity (report, December 5) might be better aimed at the more immediate festival of Christmas.

Yours faithfully, S. J. HENDERS. 52 Station Road, Barton, Liverpool L39 7JN. se@campus.bt.com

Reindeer recruit

From Mr A. H. Davis

Sir, I must correct the statement in your third editorial today. Santa's flying sleigh is not drawn by red-nosed

Careful study of the words of the song Rudolf, the Red-nosed Reindeer will reveal that the said Rudolf was recruited for the duration of only one particular foggy Christmas Eve. Santa is stated to have asked Rudolf:

Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?" There is no evidence that the employment became permanent, despite the fact that Rudolf was to "go down in his—tor—cc".

Yours faithfully, A. H. DAVIS, 29 Cherry Lane, Hampton Magna, Warwick CV35 8SL

December 15.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 16: The Lady Elion has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen. BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 16: The Duke of York. Colonel-in-Chief. The Royal Irish Regiment, this afternoon received the following officers:

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Kendell upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Oflicer, 4th/5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers (Volunteers) and Lieutenant Colonel John Rollins upon assuming the appointment.
Lieutenant Colonel James
Linford upon relinquishing his
appointment as Chief of Staff.

Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Irish Regiment, and Lieutenant Colonel James Jackson upon assuming the appointment;

Lieutenant Colonel John Deverell upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer, 8th (County Armagh and County Tyrone) Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment. **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

December In: The Princess Royal, Patron, the Butler Trust, this morning visited Her Majesty's Privon Wondhill, Tanenhoe Street, Milton Keynes, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire (Str Nigel Mobbs). Her Royal Highness this after-

noon opened Parmiter's School Sports Centre, High Elms Lane, Garston, near Watford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire (Mr

Simon Bowes Lyon).
The Princess Royal, President.
The Princess Royal Trust for
Carers, later visited Herifordshire Carers Centre, Sucklings Yard, Church Street, Ware, Hertford-shire, and Glaxo Wellcome. Park

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, this evening attended the 1997 Festival of Trees Gala Dinner at the Natural History Museum, London

CLARENCE HOUSE December its Dame Frances Campbell-Preston has succeeded the Hon Mrs Rhodes as Lady in Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

The new Headmaster of Ardingly College, is to be Mr John Franklin.

Deputy Headmaster of St Peter's College, Adelaide. He will succeed

Mr James Flecker, who retires in

Mr Franklin, 44, was born and

educated in Australia. He has mught English in a variety of schools including Toowoomba Grammar School and Sedbergh

School. He also spent three years at Mariborough College where he

taught English and was an Assis-

tant Housemaster. Since 1993 he

has been Deputy Head of St Peter's

one of Australia's oldest and

most prestigious Anglican boys' schools. His wife, Kim, is Head of

English at Pembroke School, a leading independent co-educa-

tional school in the city.

Ardingly

September 1998.

ST JAMES'S PALACE December 16: The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this morning held a report back seminar with business lead-ers who attended the autumn 1997 "Seeing is Believing" programme, which promotes business-driven community regeneration, at SI

His Royal Highness, Patron, Help the Aged, this afternoon visited a day centre for older people at the Peel Centre, Percy Circus, London WCI. KENSINGTON PALACE

December 16: The Princess Marpecember to: the Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, con-nel-in-Chief, The Light Dragoons, this afternoon received Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Checketts upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer and Lieutenant Colonel David Rutherford-

KENSINGTON PALACE December 16: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association, this afternoon received Colonel Henry Hugh Smith (Chairman) and Lieutenant Colonel Ray Holland (General

The Duke of Gloucester this evening attended a presentation of the "Story of Christmas" at St George's Church, Hanover Square, London WI, and afterwards attended a Reception at the Wallace Collection, Manchester Square.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron. Parkinson's Disease Society, this evening attended a Carol Concert at St Marylebone Church, London NW1. THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

RICHMOND PARK December 16: Princess Alexandra Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of the Light Infantry, this afternoon re-ceived Lieutenant General J.F. Deverell (Colonel of the Regiment). Lieutenant Colonel A.M.W. Mortimer upon relinquishing command of the 5th Battalion and Lieutenant Colonel C.C.S. Booth upon assum

ing the command. Her Royal Highenss, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended Joy to the World, a Christmas Celebration at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

Autumn Term at The Mount School York culminated in our

school fork cultimated in bold on Sunday, December 14. The School has enjoyed an eventful term with some line achievements.

notably our fencers representing Great Britain in Europe and the presentation of almost £3,000 to the British Pollo Fellowship. The

Spring Term commences on Tues-

School are pleased to announce the

appointment of Mr Desmond Ban-

appointment of Mr Desirons Satisfier, BA, AKC, at present Senior Tulor at Royal Hospital School, Stourbridge, as Headmaster from September I, 1998. He succeeds Mr Peter Milner who is retiring after

day, January 6, 1998.

29 years service.

Harrow

Quainton Hall School.

The Mount School

School news



Paul Hoggard, a sand artist who spends his summers creating giant faces and figures on the beaches of west Cornwall, working on a figure from the Madonna and Child and the Three Kings that he is making from ten tons of sand. The sculpture, which should be finished tomorrow, will stand in an annex of Truro Cathedral for three weeks

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, Patron, Philharmonia Chorus, will attend a performance of Verdi's Requiem at the Festival Hall at 7.10 to mark the 40th anniversary of the chorus, the 40th anniversary of the circuits. The Princess Royal, Patron, Nat-ional Association of Victims Sup-port Schemes, will aftend a meeting of the advisory board. Church House, Westminster, at 10.30; as Patron, Sense-The National Deal-bind and Rubella Association, will attend a Friends Luncheon, Rutland Trust. Rutland House, Rutland Gardens, SW7, at 12.30; and as President. Animal Health Trust, will attend the Christmas Celebration dinner, Banqueting House, Whitehall, at 6.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend a Carols by Candlelight service at St Luke's, Sydney Street, SW3, at 6.20 in aid of the Honeypot Home Charity. The Duchess of Kent will present

the Children of Courage Awards, Westminster Abbey, at 10.55.

Birthdays today

Mr Peter Blackburn, chairman, Nestle UK, 57; Dame Mary Cartwright, former Mistress, Girton College, Cambridge, 97; Professor Mark Casson, economist, 52; Mr Christopher Cazenove, actor, 52; Mr David Collett, chairman, National Centre for Volunteering, 63: Viscount Daventry, 76; Lord de Villiers, 86; Lord Glenamara, CH, 85; Mr Bernard Hill, actor, 53; Miss Gwendolen Kirby, former matron, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, 86; the Hon Dominic Lawson, Editor, The Sanday Telegraph, 42; Mr Tom Mayer, electronic engineer, 70; Mr Kerry Packer, chairman, Australian publishing and broadcasting companies, 61; Sir Leonard Pach, former believes to the former of the f former chairman. Police Complaints Authority, 65; Mr Robert Robinson, broadcaster, 71; Mr D.A.G. Smith, former Headmaster, Bradford Grammar School, 63; Mr Tommy Steele, actor and singer, 62; Baroness Strange, 70.

University news

Anna K R Malpas (Modern

Paul M McCourt (Engineering):

James W Murray (Natural

Chetan Narshi (Medical Sciences)

David J Parkin (Engineering):

Paul C Roberts (Engineering);

Gideon S Sanitt (English);

Political Sciencesi:

Sciences),

Anniversaries

1967.

video, 1939.

Hugh M Robinson (Mathematics)

Daniel J Shepherd (Mathematics);

Alana E A Tervo (Social and

Jennie E Volkmer (Medical

Michele S L Wong (Medical

Elizabeth J Wynn (Natural

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, physician and advocate of women's

rights to practise medicine. Aldeburgh, 1917; Str Bernard

Spilsbury, pathologist, London, 1947; Dorothy L. Sayers, detective novelist, ersayist and translator, Witham, Essex, 1957; Harold Holt, Prime Minister of Australia 1966-

67, drowned off Portses, Victoria,

The first powered flight was

the Fiver I, at Kill Devil Hill, North Carolina, 1903. The Battle of the River Plate: the

Graf Spee was scuttled off Monte-

The closure of the Suez Canal

Organ Scholar Richard T Latham (Music).

John D Oates (English);

Cambridge Emmanuel College

The following Scholarship elec-tions have been made: Sacretor Scholars Tharner A Backhouse (Classics); Eoin S Gillen (Music); Katherine S Griffiths (Modern

Languages Nathan MacDonald (Theology); Daniel B Radov (Natural Sciences). Senior Scholary J H Tom Bentham (Engineering):

Nicholas G N Brown (Theology); Matthew J Bullimore (Theology); Neil M Douglas (Mathematics): Emily A Dyson (Natural Sciences); Peter J I Ellis (Medical Sciences); Ramin Farzaneh-Far [Medical Claire H. L. Powler (Veterinary Scenosia

Jason O J Freeman (Angle-Saxon Jennifer S Gibb (Natural Sciences); Colin A Green (Engineering); Katherine A Halsey (English); David R Hargreaves (Engin-

BIRTHS: Prince Rupert, Royalist commander in the civil war, Prague, 1619: Domenico Cimarosa, composer, Naples, 1749; Sir-Humphry Davy, inventor of the miners' safety lamp, Penzance, 1778; John Greenleaf Whitter,

poet, Haverhill, Massachusetts, 1807; Jules de Goncourt, diarist,

Paris, 1830; Ford Madox Ford,

novelist and critic, Merton, Surrey, 1873; W.L. Mackenzie King, Prime

30 and 1935-48, Berlin, Ontario,

DEATHS: Simon Bolivar, "Liber-

ator" of South America, Santa Marta, Colombia, 1830; William

Thomson, 1st Baron Kelvin, physi-

cist, Largs, Strathelyde, 1907;

Memorial service Professor K.W. Sykes Mohamed F Hassan (Mathe-Andrew E Holland (Natural

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Professor Keble Sykes, a former Vice-Principal of Queen Mary College, was held yesterday in the college chapel. The Rev David Peebles, chaptain, officients Robert L.Jack (Natural Sciences): Hilary J E Jones (Veterinary Professor Graham Zellick, Prin-T W Ada Ma (Medical Sciences);

cipal, and Professor Ray Bonnett read the lessons. Professor Donald Bradley, FRS, and Professor Bernard Aylett gave addresses.

Dinners

Turnets' Company The err Company
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs
were the guests of honour at a
dinner given by the Master and
Wardens of the Turners Company
last night at Apothecaries' Hall.
Mr Peter Francis Worlidge, Master, presided and presented the
Lord Mayor with a burn elm

Lord Mayor with a burr elm inmed bowl.

During the evening the Master presented the Turners' Shield to the Team Leader of 128 (Ports-mouth) Reciamation Company REME (Volunteers), who had won the field competition earlier this year. The Director-General Equip-ment Suggest for the Army and ment Support for the Army and Masters and Clerks of City Livery

Royal Naval Engineers' Dining Club

Mr Alistair Cumming was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Royal Naval Engineers' Dining Club held last right at the Naval Club, Mayfair. Rear-Admiral J.A. Trewby was in the obest.

RAF Chab

Air Vice-Marshal P.J. Goddard. Chairman of the RAF Club and Group Captain A.J.R. Banks, pre-sided jointly at the annual Christmas luncheon held at the Club les

The engagement is announced between Alistair, son of Mr and Entre Rios, Argentina.

herween Austan, and of Marring-worth. Northampunshire, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs. Michael Sutton-Scott-Tucker, of Riversbridge, Dartmouth, Devon. Mr C.A. Hamilton and Miss L.J. Brend Mr D.W.F. Coates : and Schorita A. Ferrutino The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Coates. of Hammersmith, London, and

Forthcoming

marriages

Aminta, youngest daughter of Senor and Senora Ferrutino, of El Progreso, Honduras. Mr R.M. Coates and Miss S.L. Bolton

Mr A.E.D. Cameron and Miss L.E. Sution-Scott-Tucker

The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Cnates, of Hammersmith, London, and Samantha, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Bolton, of Shoreman, Sossa Mr. J.J. Cross

and Miss E. Duraiska and Miss E. Duraiska
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of the Rev James and Mrs Cross, of Stretford, Manchester, and Ewa, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Wladyslaw Duralski, of Coventry, West Midlands.

Mr LL Eddis and Miss J.P. Konder The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Richard Eddis, of

Little Horkesley, Essex, and Polly, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs John Kottler, of Little Comberton. Worcestershire. Mr J.G.B. Portmas

Miss S.J. Mordinate
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Mr Anthony Portman, of Upton, Andover, Hampshire, and Mrs Laurence McNaught, of Easton Royal, Pewsey, Wittshire, and Sophie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Mordaum, of Brawby, North Yorkshire.

Mr R.J.C. Heale and Miss M.G. Telenta The engagement is announced between Roger, elder son of Mr and Mrs Toby Heale, of Goudhurst Kent, and Hong Kong, and Gabriela, daughter of Schor and Schora Horacio Telenta, of

The engagement is announced between Colin, son of Mr and Mrs between Colin, son or real and J.A. Hamilton, of Teddingson, Middlesex, and Lesley, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.H.J. Brend, of Chadleigh, Devon. The Hon S.R.E.C. James

The Hon S.K.E.C. James
and Miss A.K. Gregory
The engagement is announced
between Schastian, son of Lord
and Lady Northbourne, of
Betteshanger, Kent. and Anna.
daughter of Mr Anthony Gregory
and Mrs Marie Gregory, both of
Sheffield, Yorkshine. Mr M.J. Siebert

and Miss G.E. Ferguson
The engagement is announced between Manhew, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Siebert, of Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey, and Gillian, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Ferguson, of Fleet, Mr I.A. Turner

and Miss A.V. Revett The engagement is announced between Iam, son of Mr Allan Turner and the late Mrs Jose-Turner, of Walderslade, Kent, and Amanda, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Miles Revett, of Severmaks, Kent.

Marriage

Mr R.H.W. Galbrain.

The marriage took place on December 13, 1997, at the Orwell Church of Scotland, Milnathort, between Robert, only son of Mr and Mrs Hamish Galbraith, of Kinnettas, Strathpeller, to Gillian, younger daughter of the late Captain John Edington and of Mrs Edington, of Gladsmutr, East Lothum.

Latest wills

Lionel Stuart George, company director, of Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire, left estate valued at £2.274.357 net.

Betry Highwood, of Blandford St.
Mary, Blandford Forum, Dorset,
left estate valued at £2,718,556 ret.
She left £10,000 to the Frish and to
the Margares Green Poundation.
Trust and £5,000 to the Church at
Blandford St Mary plus shares in her
residuary estate to Cancer Research
Campaign. British Heart Foundation, Friends of Blandford Hospital.
Donkey Sanctuary, Cale Protection
League, Cancer Relief Macmillian
Fund, and Marie Curie Cancer Core.
Francie Edward Volm Riesefelts of Francis Edward John Bleschly, of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at EI,095,273 net. He left £500 to Monks Risborough (St Dunstan's) PCC.

Pay Bell Colebrook, of Ascot, Berkshire, left estate valued at EL365,190 net. She left £2,000 to Toynbee Hall: £1,000 to the Distressed Genriefnik's Aid Association.

Gillian Mary Califorore, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, Beaconstield. Bucking parastire, left estate valued at £1.225.225 net. she left 150.000 to any registered charity dealing with research 100 and the treatment of cancer, £30.000 each to NSPCC, Save the Children, lan Rennie Horspice at Home, £20.000 each to the Royal Opera House Trust, Royal Commonwealth Joan Isabelle Dorey, of Emsworth,

James Dalgetty Do

Heddon on the Wall, Newcastle upon Tyne, left astate valued at £1,422,666 ngt. He left £3,000 m the #5PCA and in the FUSA.

marjorie Mona Hayton, of Milminorpe, Cumbria, left estage valued at £303,231 net.

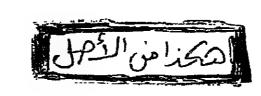
She left shares in for estate to Kendal Mountain Rescue, Arthritis and Rheumatim Council for Research, Sritish Heart Foundation, Rhl., local comerciation, c/o South Lakeland District Council, Rendal, Marie Curle Cancer Care, Cancer Research Campaign, Christie's Homital, Withington, Manchenter, and the Friends of Westmoriand Horgital.

Josephine Fletcher, of Sheffield, at £698.355 net. Geoffrey Thomas Bell, of Klrk Ella, East Yorkshire, left estate

Eila, East Yorkshire; left estate valued at \$923,665 net. He left 110,000 to Concer Research Campaiga and to Rirk Rila Parish PCC 13,000 to the Salions' Familias Society: £2,000 each to Friends of Wydale, Sull Boys Club (NUL), and York Diocesan Board of Finance: £1,000 each to Rull and Rest Riding Institute for the Bind, shoty Frinity Church PCC of Hall and Church Army.

Margaret Kelland Littlewood. of estate valued at £512,256 net. Julia Abigail Oldridge, of Barton on Humber, North Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £570,075 net. Nancy Kathleen Potter, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £546,964 net.

0171 680 6 E: 0171 4			PEI	RSONAI	L COLU	MN	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		ADE: 0171 481 19 FAX: 0171 481 93
God of the femi ring; in his sight Luke 20 : 38	DEATHS						TICKETS FOR SALE	FOR SALE	FLIGHTS
Decumber 14th	BOOTH - John died pescetully in hospital after a short illness on 12th December. Funcai Frant Church, sear Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 2.30pm Friday 19th December, Tell (01962)	CLESSENTS - On 13th December 1997 pencefully, Peter Larby aged 79. Loving husband of Margaret, deamest dad of John, Guy and Shmon, also a much loved gamdad. Service at St Peter's	202008 - Huntly Commander Zoyal Navy died the spectrally at the spe of 46 on 6th December 1997. Much loved husband of Feather and devent father of Jesses and Apply martin.	MARSHALL - Joan Esthleen ("Butty") (née Grubb) peacefully on December 15th aged 89. Formar General Manager of the Basingstoks Canal, such loved mother and	SHATE - Hency (née Pym) died on 13th December 1997, dear wife of Dr. Christopher Silver and much loved mother of Eleanor, Angela, Paul and Sesannah. Furmerly Headmistress of Streather	Surgess (now Winn), on 15th December 1997, pencedulty, in her 97th year. Widow of Cyril Youle, greatly loved mother of Robin and Washin mother (n. her of	All, TICKETS, Bugby, All sport, Januaropani, P. Colline, P. Weller, Tell (127) 930 (8500) CHEAPER III LONGOM Phanatom, Chicago, Carle, All peri & sport, We dekiver, 0171 379 1649	THE THIRD -: 1791-1997 other ticle average in Party for po- senantics - ske Tanday R Resember When 0181-68 6223 or Call Free 050 620000	PAGE OF USA
Radcliffe) and rdan Alexander, nd joy. Depumber Little nd Hospital, to	777414. ROWEN - Pescefully on December 15th in Trebencya Park Nursing	Church, Budleigh Salterton, Thursday December 18th at 2 pm followed by crimation. All exquiries to Palmers Funeral Service 01395	of James and Amelia, greatly missed by all who knew him. A family funeral will be held at Cantress Cremstocium on Piday 19th December 1997. A Public Memorial Service	grandmother. Penseral at St. Mary's Church, Winchfield, on Monday 22nd Decumber at 1 pin. Pamily and close friends' flowers only.	Hill and Clapham High School and of Putney High School, GPDST. Funeral Service to be held at St	jourie, devoted grandmother of Rupert and Plone, A rich and generous life, Cremation private. All enquiries to T.A.	Rugby 5 Nations,	OVERSEAS TRAVEL	ROPINSALEÑA CARBOLANA BALLA EPP CARBOLANA SAL ÉST FARESE E CYPRÉS ELM BAFRICA E TAN ESTE HOLA BERSE ELP BYDARK E
and Nob, a Catherine 71bs Ilos). A st for Mr and d Chaffin of thomas Brigon Pennsylvania.	Home, Abergavenny, Evelyn Mary (formerly of Lianilowell House, near Usk). The dearly beloved wife of the laze ELP. Bowen, dearest mother of Elizabeth and Margarette and their	442252. COX.JOHNSON - Pencetully on Monday December 15th 1997. judith Mary much loved wife of Richard, mother of James, The, Bevis.	will be held on Friday 30th January 1998 at St Michael and All Angels Eniscopal Church, William Street, Helsosburgh at 2 pm. No Howers please. Domations (if desired) in Bwn of flowers	Donations in her memory to RSPCA and Basingstoke Canal Bosts for the Disabled clo A & W Goddard Ltd., Kenz Road, Fleet, Hants. (01252) 616431.	Bill, NW3 on 22nd December at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Densitiens, if desired, to: Minsers Fund GPDST (1872), 100 Rochester Row, Lendon SWIP 197.	Princess Alexandra Home.	E. John, P Coffins, all pop 'Any ticket obtained'	PGRTHRAS, & Canadists. All separatives and separative point hose, Chightan propagation for T. Ol.51 654 2424, Betzif agents. ASTA E1 63X.	-
comber 10th at id Hospital, to Veymann) and Maximilian, it by.	families. Feneral on Saturday 20th December 1997, service at Limiloyell Church at 11 am. Interment to follow within the chyrolymod Beral religious	mother of James, The, Hevis and Nick, grandmother of Frederick, Sen, and Eliza. Fulleral Service 2: Hampsteed Furish Church Church Bow, NW3 on Monday Documber 22nd at 12 noon, Family Dowess only	should be sent to Tenoven. The Cancer Charity, c/o Robertson & Weir Funezal Disecturs, 17/23 West King Street, Eslemsburgh G84 SUN. BICKMAN - Constance	McCLELAN - Nigal William on December 14th, desply loved and moursed by his wife kis, his children and his	TUZZER - Dorsen Cooper (née Cole) of Walbernwick and Southwold died on Sunday 14th December 1997 agad 33 years. Beloved wife of the late Bernard Gilbert Tesse and deanly loved mother and	IN MEMORIAM — WAR		UK HOLIDAYS	Jetworld CHEAPEST PARES AND AND STAR DATE CHARACTER STAR DATE STAR
E - On 6th t home, to Lucy a) and Adrian, a Frances Aune sister for Hester oo.	and all empiries to Edward Jones and Daughter, Castle Parade, Usk, tel: (01291) 672042. BREDHS - Jacqueline much loved mother of Coryane	GROSSLEY - Peter W. Peacefully in Durban on December 14th. Beloved husband of Butham, father of Devid, Nicholas and Sumh.	Margaret (Peggy) (née Fordinn) devoted mother of Josathan, mother-in-law of Debra and loving gandmother of Georgia and Jeobel. Fanaral at St. Peter	grandchildren. Bequiem Mass at St. Aloystus Church, 25 Woodstock Bood, Oxford on Saturday December 20th at 10 am. Penalty flowers only, donations, if desired, to Save the Children.	Service at Cambridge City Cramstorium (West Chapsi) on Monday 22nd December 1997 at 12 noon, Family	BURCE - Robert and the crew of EMS Finedrals such this day 1942 by UZ11. A father dearly subsed, a grandfather never met.	Wimbledon Tennis Casis, the verve.	MUSICAL	GERTE 77 ARSTRAUA GOA 37 SAFRICA BLAW 177 BREAM 01273 27787
December 14th. in (pie Davies) sou, William.	died Saturday 13th December 1997. Will be greatly missed by her many friends. Service to be held 1.15 pm on Monday 22nd Décember at St Feter's Church, Beated, Essex.	of Dovid, Nicholas and Samh. Family flowers only. DAWSONS - Phyllis on 9th December 1997, wife of the late Roger Henry Dawson and mother of John and	Steeple Montien on Priday 19th December at 12 noon. Gene to jobs her beloved son David. HiffST - Earbain Elizabeth unexpectedly but peacefully on 11th December 1997	OSEORME - Albert Edward (Bertie) formerly of Cobham, Survey, peacefully on Dacember 14th. So very	Howers only, engulates to Ely Funezal Service 01383 666664. TURNBULL - On 13th Documber 1997, at Budleigh Salteston, Devon, Physics Turnbull OSE 1D FRIFI,	IN MEMORIAM	Phantom, Chicago Tel: 9171 247 4123	INSTRUMENTS SLOTHERS Plano Sale Now On Significant Radactions on Quality Upright and Gayad Planon. For Universible Prices, call we Free on 0800 028 0538.	Now booking Stimmer 98 Real agests for AVII. Indites, AUTA Or AVII. Indites, AUTA Or AUTA Or AUTA Or AUTA OF A
cthur Owan, Post, licitor, died on aber 1997 very the Wallatch test Row, East d 99, Cremation	Flowers may be sent to Humanizal Futerial Services, 41 Mercen Road, Colchester, Essex. SMCE - Frances (née Hodges), beloved wife of William, died	Jernifer. At her own request a private funeral has taken place. DEWAR - David, on 15th December 1997 at Lewisham	aged 70. Each loved and missed, mother, grandmother and sister. Funeral Service 19th December Holy Trinity Church 11.30 am, Colemn's Hatch, or Hartfield, Susser. Flowers & desired to E.R.	December 14th. So very deady loved husband of Jean and adored father of Angels. Service at Christ Church, Doss, Sheffield on Monday 22nd December at 12.15 pm followed by cremation at	aged 81, beloved husband of Griselds, much loved father and grandfather. Private cremation. He flowers blease. A Service of	Remembered with love by her children and grandchildren. HOLMES - John died 17th December 1985. A loved son of Geo and Maris.	TICKETS Five Nations Rugby F1 Grand Prixs	Deuterstate, & Desiratory Science,	Alicante SER Turley Malana PED Malan PED Malan PED Malan Petro SER Greece & Palma SER Gre
and Sussex m, Crawley, at 8th December. in Paca. M - On 14th in St Barnabas	pescefully at home in her sleep on December 12th 1997. No newers please, domations if desired to the Parkinson's Discuss Society. Requiem Mass at St Catherine's Dischary on	Rospital, peacifully, aged 79. Seleved father of lan and Disne, grandfather of James, partner of Setty and father-in-law of Lyan. Service at AZ Saints Church, Slackheath, London SES at 11 am on Toesday 23rd Documber and	Rund, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TM1 1SD or domations to Exists Heart Foundation, 14 Pitchardings Street, London WIM AURI or Housing in the	Butcliffs Wood Crematorium Enquiries to John Beath & Sons Funeral Directors, tel: 0114 2722222.	Thunkagiving will be haid at All Sainty, hear Sudisigh on Friday, 16th January at 11.30 am, any donations to Budisigh Satherton Health Centre Chanty Fund, 1 The Lawa, Budisigh Salterton, Devon ESS 615.	SAVERS - Dorothy L on December 17th 1957. "After 40 years still a living fonce." Dorothy L Sayers Society Hunstpierpoint BM6 57E	CHICAGO, PRANTOM, LORD OF THE DANCE RIVERDANCE OASIS,	PLATMATES London's Response (Set 1970) Professional that there service. 0171-669 8491	AIRLINK
oughs Patrick 79 years of formerly with ank and CMS.	Priday December 19th at 12 moon, followed by interment at Burnley Comptent at 2 per. All funeral emquiries to Copp Funeral Services, Choriton, tek (0161) 881-2212.	Hotel, Blackheath, All friends welcome. Flowers to Prancis Chappell & Sons, 5 Loe High Bond, Lewisham SE13 SLQ or donstions to	wegin, nies Garciner House, Fembury Road, Tunbridge Wells Tit2 3ZU. IEEE - Marjorie (née Hamman) on December 13th peacefully at home after a	PATERSON - Frank William Anderson Semestry of the Shell Oil Company seddenty at home in Angesting, W. Sansax, on December 14th aged 79. Pengan at Worthing	VATRICOTES - Professor P.J. died pencefully at his home in Cafford on Monday 15th December after a long	GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES CHAVASSE - On 17th December 1947 at the	All pop and West End theatne 0171 323 4490 Sport ticket specialist Const Perfand Batershament	FLIGHTS DIRECTORY	Marie helds A major terror to discussivo be Perce form. 2.7 A St. 7 CANADA 2.7 A St. 7 CANADA 2.8 A ST
by his droughter th Banato and ildren Alessio Funeral Service Cressstorium on sunher 22nd at Howers please that for Steyne	BROWN - Nancy Elizabeth (née Bairstow) on 14th	Parties pears Foundation or Almestoer's Disease Society. CALUSTIAN - Esig died passedully on 9th December.	long and courageously fought illness. Selved wife of Stan, much leved mother of Jonathan, Este and Belen. Service at St Ethaldreda's, Harfield, at 12 noon on Tassaday Becsmber 23rd.	Senson, on December 14th aged 79. Pengeni at Worthing Cramatorium 3.40 pm on Monday December 22nd. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Rational Canine Defence	Ulness Previously Busident of Finner, Middlesser, The funesh will rake place on Friday 19th December at 11.15 am at Oxford Creimsteriam. No flowers please, donotions if decimed.	Scitch Embassy Belgrade, Capt. Edgar Chavasse, Capterous, to Helbac, desgater of Col. and Mas. Histolic Bogdanovitck. In Abersoch 1153 72B.	FOR SALE	COSTCUTTERS on flights is hold to Europe, URA it most destina- tions, Distance Travel Servicion Left, 0171-720 2201, ASTA 25703 LATA/ATOR, 1255.	0171-713-7770
hodist Church c/o HD. Tribe adwater Road, at Sussex BN14 hone; 01903-	the late George Stanley Brown and dearly leved mother of Suphen, blincheth and Richard and gamdnother Cremation for family and friends at	GAZITUA - Emma (née de Vrice), aged 86 peacefully on Saturday December 13th	LINCOLM - E. Brien D.L., son of the late Tommy and Daris, suddenly and Descerally at home on December 15th 1997, formany of Underhill Road Claudon Village, may	League of E.B. Tribe Led. Funeral Directors, 63 Sea Lane, Rustington, W. Sussex.	to the Cardise Unit John Badellife Hospital do A.W. Bruce, 29 Rogers Street, Summertown, Oxford OZZ 7E. Tel: 01865 310907.	WANTED	A SHITHERATE Horospaper, Origi- mal. Superby prominent. Prospinate 0000 900009 BOLEX Ladies 18 Caret, con- cusied President Incir. dismond disl. saw movements process, 66,500. Tel: 01924 681891 eye	emiddany Delly low cost Sights and hotal accommendation. All Major CC. German Couts 0181 429 2900, ATTA 90685 ATGL 2977 LATA	WOULD WID
ture suddenly Thursday 11th Much loved san and Ann lass at St dory, London	11.15am Tuesday 23rd December 1997 at Heaterd Commaterium, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at the Priory Church, Lemmeter at 2 mm. Family	1997. in London Widow of Guillermo Garitus, beloved mother of Maspacka, Betty and Marin, grandsvother of Craig, Berret, Christophez, Tina, Edward, Patrick, Anduw, David and Suphen,	Schotzman, Type and West. Funeral Service to be hald at St Hilde's Church, Market Place, South Shields on Monday December 22nd at 12,45 pm. followed by	RSPOS - Rosa pencefully ch Saturday 13th December in her 84th year. Widow of Rill. Greatly loved mother of Faul	WHITTOR - Vers Derothy beloved mother of Mary and Robert. Grandmother to Adam, Cmig. James, Ross and Scott. Died peacefully on Sunday December 14th aged	chase less price paid. All inquirestantis bus no 7452 TICKETS FOR SALE	PRINTENSES 2, seen. Buch court 946.55. Best offer, can be sold asparately. 0374 956130.	Discounted faces to ad destination SPAIN 202 UCA - /- 179 PORTLOAK 70 CANDATEAN 189 CANARIES 89 \$ AFRICA - 160 KSARL - 100 CANARA - 144 KSARL - 100 CANARA - 144	STEPLOY GAT PERTH BY AUCREAND GAC RANGEON BY JAKARTA BYN SINCAPORE BY RONGEONG BYS BALL METIGO GREEN BO
Friday 19th at 9.30 am, cremation at a Crematorium Enquiries to ons, Tel: 0171		Andrew, David and Suphen, and great-grandmorther of Beeky and Jazzy. Funanal on Tousthy December 23rd at 11am at Our Lady of Grano and St Edward, 247 Chiswick Right Road, 848.	cremation. No flowers please. Donations if desired to the Sail Training Association Northumbria, the Peter Hall, 2 Kingdiand, Jesmand, Newcastle NE2 341.	and Susan, mother-fo-law of Clare and generated as Simon. Tuneral Eardealis Fark Crunstodium, Leatherhead, Survy, Monday 22nd Documber 2 pm.	82. Service to be held at St Christopher's Hinchley Wood 1.30 pm and Rendells Park Communicium 2.30 pm on Monday December 22nd. Flowers to Longhurst, Epsem, Sorrey.	ACCESS TRUSTING Specialists to all gold out events. Onch tick- ets could. Tele0171 821 6616 ALL ASSAIL Fineston, Hemory, the- rity Cocks, Jemboyan, Weller, Emply, Sport 0171 480 6189	TELECOMETRIC (2) Sought for EXOSP. Righest office source. Tele OIPAS GRISTO THE TURNESS Tinky Whitey & Diggs. Pathogod/Goost 227. Office Tab OVES 074214	GRECCE 99 (80th 20th CHARD) 146 (80th CHARD) 140 FAR FAUT 310 (80th CHARD) 150 FAUT	PARTYONE CONSTINUENCE CONSTINUENCE CONSTINUENCE CONSTINUENCE CONSTINUENCE CONSTINUENCE CONSTITUENCE CONSTITUE



OBITUARIES

STUBBY KAYE

Stubby Kaye, American actor and singer, died in Los Angeles on December 15, aged 79. He was born on November 11, 1918.

tubby Kaye was famous primarily for the performance of just one song in just one show: in 1950 he made his Broadway debut creating the role of Nicely-Nicely Johnson in Guys and Dolls, and stopped the show with his powerhouse rendition of the spoof spiritual Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat. The heginning was perfect. He was of a considerable girth, even then, and exploited it to the full: when he was reprising the role in the film version (alongside Marion Brando and Frank Sinatra), the film's producer Sam Goldwyn kept circling him suspiciously to check that he was not losing weight, and when Kaye protested that he weighed the same as he always had, Gold-wyn replied tartly: "You'd better not lose any weight. 1 hired you by the pound." Being overweight might

seem a flimsy basis for showbusiness success, but Kaye had other talents which served him well. The frame helped him to produce a resonant voice, and his early work as an emcee for big bands and as a stand-up comedian honed his comic timing and ability to point a song lyric. He not only looked right in the seedy, small-time gambling world of Damon Runyon, but put over the sprightly words and bouncy melodies of Frank Loesser incomparably. All who subsequently played the role stood in his substantial shadow.

Kaye, originally Bernard Kozin and nicknamed Stubby for obvious reasons, was born in New York and brought up against the tough background of the Bronx. He developed showbusines ambitions while still a schoolboy, and won a talent contest on the Major Bowes Amateur Hour on radio in 1939, appearing as a singer. It was as a singer, too, that he made his professional debut at Loew's Boulevard Theatre in the Bronx the same year, but for the next three years he toured in vaudeville as a come-



Stubby Kaye, left, as Nicely-Nicely in a scene from the 1955 film version of Guys and Dolls

dian. Called up during the war, he made his first London appearances in productions to entertain the troops and to display any showcase talent that found itself temporarily in the service.

Like many British all-round entertainers who cut their teeth in Ensa, he returned home after the war to find no obvious demand for his talents. He had, in effect, to start again, and took what work was offered, going back to vaudeville (though the touring circuit had greatly declined with changing fashions), and working on the radio as com-pere for bands such as Charlie Barnett's and Freddje Martin's. He seemed to be getting nowhere until his big chance came up with the auditions for Guys and Dolls. He was immediately offered the role.

The problem with such a sensational beginning is al-ways what to do for a followup. Kaye played the role in Guys and Dolls throughout its lengthy New York run, and during this time he made his film debut playing a small role in Gregory Ratoff's film Taxi, a remake of the French weepie Sans laisser d'adresse shot in New York. His enormous success as

Nicely-Nicely was beginning to look like a jinx rather than a blessing when in 1955 he was called to Hollywood to play Nicely-Nicely again in Joseph Mankiewicz's expensive if rather stodgy film version of Guys and Dolls. in 1956 he returned to Broadway to play a very similar role Marryin' Sam, in the musical Li'l Abner, a rustic romp based on the American strip cartoon and composed by the team responsible for Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Gene de Paul and Johnnie Mercer. Both Kaye and the show were highly successful, and when the time came for a film to be made, Kaye was called upon to reprise his original role for the cameras.

Once in Hollywood he thought he might as well stay there, and proceeded to appear in many movies, some of note and some eminently forgettable. He was seen to particular advantage in a succession of small musicals which were then still being made, among them You Can't Run Away From It, Dick Powell's musical remake of It Happened One Night; The Cool Mikado, a crudely modernised version of Gilbert and Sullivan which indicated how good Kaye

ymus Merkin Ever Forget Mercy Humppe and Find True Happiness? One of Kaye's best-remembered roles around this time, away from musicals for once. was in the comedy western Cat Ballou, where he and Nat King Cole played the strolling minstrels who recur through out the action, commenting

might have been in the origi-

nal; Bob Fosse's dazzling ad-

aptation of Sweet Charity, and Anthony Newley's curious ego-trip musical Can Hieron-

ironically on the story. With the decline of film musicals which became marked in the 1970s, Kaye returned to the stage, and had a notable success, on tour and in New York, with a big revival of the Twenties musical Good News, in which he played a character called Pooch Kearney. In 1975 he took over a leading role in the topical farce The Ritz from Jack Weston.

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Back in the 1950s he had appeared in two short-lived television series. Love and Marriage and My Sister Eileen, and in the 1980s he did more, including the ambitious mini-series Ellis Island. In 1988 he was given, again for television, one of his most telling straight roles, in a new version of Clifford Odets's bitter showbusiness drama The Big Knife, His last memorable film role required him to be heard but not seen, as one of the cartoon characters in

Who Framed Roger Rabbit? Kaye died of cancer in his home in Los Angeles after a period of inactivity - but still remembered, if only as the guy who first and definitively sang Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat.

ROSLIN FRASER

Roslin Fraser, former deputy president of the Royal College of Nursing, died on December 8 aged 70. She was born on May 21, 1927.

IT WAS only when she found herself widowed in her late forties with five children to support that Roslin Fraser trained as a mental handicap nurse. She went on to become the first such nurse to be elected deputy president of the Royal College of Nursing, traditionally the bastion of teaching-hospital matrons and general-trained nurses. She also served as a Mental Health Act commissioner.

Roslin Fraser was educated at Dingwall Academy and at Edinburgh University, where she took a science degree and met her future husband. Marriage and the arrival of her first baby prompted her to give up her PhD studies, in which she had been using botanical remains to trace the drift of continents. She got a job instead with D C Thomson, the Dundee publishers of children's comics and magazines; she wrote for the People's Friend and helped to launch the teenagers' magazine Annabelle. She used her young children to model clothes for studio shots.

Eventually her husband lan was made a consultant and the medical superintendent of the pioneering mental handicap hospital at Prudhoe, Northumberland. As a medical student he had lost a kidney to nephritis, and as a result had been unable to get life insurance. In consequence, when he died young, his widow was faced with bringing up five children on a greatly reduced income. She promptly enrolled as a student nurse at her late husband's hospital and qualified when she was 48.

The transformation from physician superintendent's wife and hostess to most junior nurse — which she undertook so that her children could have continuity in their schooling — was a dramatic one: "from dining out to wiping bottoms," as she put it. To make herself more approachable to her young col-leagues she deliberately dropped Roslin for Roz, by which she was known in her

second career. She ulso became immediately involved in her professional body, the Royal College of Nursing.

After working her way to charge nurse of the Behavioural Modification Unit at Prudhoe, she became senior nurse tutor at Balderton Hospital. Newark. She continued her involvement in the Royal College of Nursing and was twice elected deputy president. As a Mental Health Act commissioner she was involved with the special hospitals at Rampton, Ashworth and Broadmoor.

A woman of immense energy, she would set off at 4am. drive to a day's work in London and return at midnight. She travelled 35,000 miles a year. She obtained a Florence Nightingale scholarship to look at community care, which had replaced menral handicap hospital care in America as it was scheduled to do in the United Kingdom. With her son Colin, she used a camper van as office and hotel and crossed 15 states. She later attended the Women's Conference in Beijing and paid visits

to Romania. She eschewed party politics but threw herself into campaigning and lobbying on a

number of issues. As well as chairing the National Alliance of Women's Organisations from 1996, she had been active on the race and ethnicity committee of the Royal College of Nursing and in the Department for Education and Employment's advisory group on older workers, where she was able to draw on her own experience of taking up a career in later life.

While working at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, before she abandoned her academic career, she had once been sent the stomach contents of a man found preserved in a bog, so that she could analyse the seeds he had ingested. She concluded that they pointed to ritualistic murder. It was perhaps the start of her great interest in archaeology, especially Egyptology, and in history — she was an enthusastic member of the Richard III Society. She liked researching the lives of powerful women, and was fascinated by mysteries. At 70 she was contemplating a return to writing. Having mastered a computer, she wanted to write a radio play on the Piltdown man hoax.

She is survived by her three sons and two daughters.

PROFESSOR FRANK MITCHELL

Frank Mitchell, FRS, archaeologist, died on November 25 aged 85. He was born on October 15, 1932.

FRANK MITCHELL was an outstanding scholar across a range of disciplines including geography, geology, botany.

INTERNATIONAL

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archaeology, art, ornithology and social history. His interest was the Irish landscape and the way in which generations since prehistoric times have shaped it. He combined insight and analytical ability with a gift for communicating and a modesty that made him a loved and admired figure.

George Francis Mitchell was born in Dublin, where he attended the High School. His interests in the natural sciences were encouraged by his mother and by early visits to the Natural History Museum, where he met the naturalist Arthur Wilson Stelfox. In 1930 he went to Trinity College to

read arts, but he soon switched to natural sciences. He once said that his life was "studded with lucky opportunities". The first occurred in 1934 when he was chosen to work with Professor Knud Jessen of Copenhagen, who was then beginning the first extensive programme of

palaeobotanical work in Ireland. This contact provided Mitchell with one of his own continuing research interests. and his paper Post-Boreal Pollen Diagrams from Irish Raised Bogs in the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy in 1956 illustrates the way he developed palaeobotanical work, particularly palynology.

Mitchell had joined the faculty of Trinity in 1934; he was elected a fellow in 1944, was Reader in Irish Archaeology from 1959 to 1965 and held a specially created professorship in Quarternary Studies from 1965 until 1979. On his retirement he was made an emeritus fellow. During his career he was also involved in the administration of the college. as Junior Dean, 1945-51; Registrar, 1952-66; and as a Pro-Chancellor, 1985-88.

The title of his chair reflected the width of his knowledge and in excavating a number of Mesolithic sites, including Sutton, Co Dublin, and Clonava. Lough Derravaragh. Co Westmeath, he was able to employ a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of early human settlement. A contribution to quarternary geomorphology that he was particularly proud of was the recognition that pingos — periglacial landforms pro-duced by the freeze-thaw effect of ice - were present in

In 1969 he and his wife Lucy bought the 18th-century Townley Hall, near Drogheda, Co



Louth, which Trinity had ac quired a decade earlier, and he ran it as a study centre for many years. Mitchell encouraged George Eogan's initial excavation of a Neolithic site on the Townley Hall estate and this was the forerunner of the long-term research excavation at the Knowth passage tomb complex.

He himself became more widely known through his books: The Irish Landscape (1976). The Shell Guide to Reading the Irish Landscape (1986) and Reading the Irish Landscape (1997), the last written with Dr Michael Ryan. His involvement in promoting palaeo-environmental work in the urban excavations in Dublin was reflected in Archaeology and Environment in Early Dublin (1987).

One part of the Irish landscape that he came particularly to love was Val-encia Island. Co Kerry, and this was the subject of his book Man and Environment in Valencia Island (1989). His enjoyment in putting small areas of the landscape under the microscope can also be seen in his work on the Great Bog of Ardee, Co Louth, which he wrote with Breeds Tuite and published in the Journal of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society

Mitchell was president of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, 1957-60, was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1973 and was president of the Royal Irish Academy from 1976 to 1979. He was a founder member of An Taisce — the National Trust for Ireland — in 1946, and served as its president from Frank Mitchell self-depre-

catingly referred to himself as a "first-approximation man" who followed a line of interest for a white and then moved on to other themes. In doing so he often radically altered the interpretation of the landscape and opened up new fields of inquiry. The Way that I Followed (1990) is a fitting account of his lifelong journey wandering through the Irish landscape

His wife died in 1987: he is survived by his two daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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GERMAN BAN ON 'ALL QUIET' FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTI

BERLIN, Dec 16 The Republican "Reichsbanner" organis-ation, in co-operation with the German Socialist Party, last night held four mass meetings in Berlin to protest against the ban on the film All Quiet on the Western Front. Much greater numbers of people seem to have gathered than assembled each night in the Nollendorf Platz in support of the Nazi agitation against the film. Incidentally, the ocialist Varwarts, in ironical reference to the fact that the film was banned in Germany as likely "to injure German prestige abroad" quotes a Danzig report that it has been forbidden in Poland as "crass pro-German

The matter came up to-day in the Prussian Dict, where the Nationalists have brought in a motion of no confidence against the Premier, Herr Otto Braun, and the Minister of the Interior, Herr Severing, as repre-sentatives of a Government which was ready to protect the film throughout Prussia if it had not been banned throughout Germany. A Nationalist speaker binerly attacked Herr

ON THIS DAY

December 17, 1930

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The German navelist Erick Maria Remaraus (1898-1970) fought through the First World War and his novel All Quiet on the Western Front (Im Westen nicht Neues) was a worldwide success, but the film met strong criticism nearer home.

Braun for stating (in the Berliner Tageblatt on Saturday) that he had been deeply moved by the film, that in his view it held nothing to wound a patriotic German, that he could not coriceive how it could damage German prestige abroad, that it told the truth, if only part of the truth, about war, and that "a people which cannot bear the truth is surrendering itself." A Socialist Deputy, who sooke for an ex-Service men's creanisation. formally protested against the ban, and remarked that Dr. Goebbels, the Nazi leader in Berlin, who led the agitation against the film, had not seen military service. There are

many Germans who see in this film the Waras they found it. There are others who do not. and as representative of this school one may briefly quote the views of a German Cabinet Minister who served several years at the front, as a battery commander. The film, he says in effect, shows only one side of war and the coarse and animal side at that, It ignores the idealism which, in the tightest of corners. was ever present, in an overwhelming degree. The ideal side of war - enthusiasm, sacrifice and patriotism - do not play their due part in the film. The scene in which the German shoots the Frenchman as an act of selfpreservation and then begs for forgiveness gives the impression of a murderer begging for pardon. In the leave scenes the inability, known to all soldiers, to put in words the great experience of war is shown as repugnance of war. Finally the psychological effect of the film is largely influenced by the, for Germany, unfavourable outcome of the War.

FILM DENOUNCED IN AUSTRIA VIENNA Dec. 16

Austrian National Socialists have protested to the authorities against the forthcoming exhibition of the film All Quiet on the Western Front in Vienna and have published threats of disorders if the performance is

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Sotheby's smuggling clampdown

Sotheby's is to tighten sale procedures to make sure it is as "clean as a whistle" after an inquiry into allegations of smuggling art treasures. The auction house also said that it would not handle anything where there was any suspicion that it might have been looted abroad.

The new code of conduct was announced at a staff meeting after an \$11 million investigation that staff had been rigging auctions and illegally exporting works of art Pages 1, 8

Warrant for arrest of Labour MP

A warrant for the arrest of Mohammed Sarwar, the suspended Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, was issued on charges of election fraud. Mr Sarwar, 44, the millionaire businessman who became Britain's first Muslim MP on May l, was due to appear voluntarily at in a Glasgow Court _ Page 1

Chicken flu scare

Chicken flu, which has already killed two people, may now be spreading person-to-person, health authorities in Hong Kong believe. If so, the danger of a world-wide epidemic will be greatly increased Page 1

Lawrence case

Three youths who tried to "terrify and intimidate" the key witness in the Philip Lawrence murder trial were jailed Pages 1. ?

Beef rebellion

The Government dismissed predictions of mass civil disobedience by meat traders after it faced a backlash at home and in Europe over its ban on sale of beef on the bonePage 2

IRA men guilty

IRA terrorists who plotted to devastate London with a series of massive lorry bombs were jailed for up to 25 years at the Old Bailey Page 4

Parents jailed

A couple who escaped a murder charge over the death of their baby daughter because of a legal loophole were jailed for seven and five years ...

Year off advice

School-leavers were advised to take a year off, rather than rush to university, after research showed that the £178 million cost of dropouts would be cut by better preparation Page 6

Badger cull

Badgers are to be culled in trial areas to find the best way of halting the increase in tuberculosis among dairy cattle___ Page 9 Tory poll

Tory MPs are to hold a formal ballot for the first time this century to settle the future of party leadership elections........Page 10 **Currency summit**

A summit of the shellshocked leaders of the crumbling former tiger economies in South-East Asia ended on a sombre note, with scant progress in solving the problems of the region's tumbling

..... Page 12

Mandela attack

currencies.....

Nelson Mandela signalled a shift in African National Congress policy away from racial reconciliation to an attack on South Africa's "liberal" whites.....

Art collection

After a 13-year restoration costing £7 million, a 500-year-old Italian palazzo containing one of the finest collections of Roman sculpture and art in the world opened its doors...

Thatcher model

Venezuelans, weary of veteran politicians who are tainted by corruption scandals, appear to want a six-foot former Miss Universe. who regards Baroness Thatcher as her "role model", as their next Page 15

Clark accused of 'colossal vanity'

Alan Clark's "colossal vanity" caused him to complain when a series of spoof journals appeared under his name, the High Court was told. The MP who is seeking damages and an injunction preventing the Evening Standard from further publication of "Alan Clark's Secret Political Diary", took his action to stamp out ridicule he richly deserved, it was claimed... Page 3



As Britain experienced Eastern European temperatures yesterday, a bather plunged into the freezing waters of a lake in Minsk. Page 1

Prudential: Britain's biggest insurance group yesterday again received stinging criticism from industry regulators, this time over the group's direct sales force. . Page 23

BUSINESS

Base: The brewer yesterday sold 1,400 pubs for £564 million and said it would return £850 million to shareholders ... Page 23

Danka: Shares in Danka Business Systems more than halved, from 510p to 2172p, after the company shocked the stockmarket with a profits warning.... _ Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 81.6 to 5203.4. The sterling trade-weighted index rose from 102.4 to 103.0 after going up from \$1.6329 to \$1.6335 and rising from DM2.8904 to DM2.9151

Football: Francis Lee, the chairman of Manchester City, is considering selling his stake in the club, a move that would open the way for a ... Page 44

Cricket: West Indies will meet England in the final of the Champions Trophy in Sharjah, Charlotte Edwards scored 173 not out in the women's World Cup.......Page 41

Rugby union: Jim Fleming, who refereed the classic drawn match between England and New Zealand, called for referening to become a full-time profession after the 1999 World Cup Page 40 Bodng: Muhammad Ali and Michael Jackson, will be at ringside in

Page 39

body-painting New York to see Naseem Hamed defend his world featherweight

FILMS

BOOKS

Times reviewers

that have most

influenced them

TV ghosts: Twenty-five years ago we settled down to a televisual Christmas feast of religious programmes, opera, ballet, comedy and sitcom. How things have

Now booking: Clive Davis finds the hot spots on the bookshelf and picks the best of the year's tomes for jazz lovers, from a truly monumental anthology to A Century of Jozz. and Richard Cork finds plenty of Christmas gift ideas for discerning art lovers in books on everything from the Italian Renaissance to

News amosh: Hecht-and MacArthur's Broadway classic The Front Page gets a pacy, furnry staging at the Donmar and it would be absurd to moralise

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

Geoff Brown feels a little

iaded after seeing the

bandit-beating Alex D.

Linz in Home Alone 3

enthuse about the books

wand: bitterly cold at first with heavy

sleet and snow spreading north during the day, with drifting on the hills. The snow will turn to rain later as

This. The show with full to rain lear as it becomes milder everywhere. A strong easterly wind, Max 8C (46F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Abstrage, Cartral Hothers, Morang Pirth, NE Scotland, Orliney, Shetiend: mostly cloudy with a few light seet or snow flumes. A strong to gale force easterly wind. Max 6C (43F).

Open wide: Show the same set of teeth to dentists around the country and the type and cost of the work to be done will vary dramatically. Tony Dawe investigates Page 16 Paranole: "It is unseemly for whipping boys to come on strong with the Today programme, like stage gangsters or Ealing comedy trade unionists, warning of suspending

co-operation." Nigella Lawson on Labour paranois ___.Page 16 Pay up: In America, stores have computerised gift registers for children, and even in Britain parents have to deal with the click-on, payout spirit of Christmas Page 17

Boware: Poaching bosses may be acceptable but tempers invariably flare when secretaries are lured away by rivals businesses Page 34

ldyff dream: Many city folk dream of a life without traffic jams, noise and pollution. But one family who tried the good life, has returned to the city...

Rather than trying to reassure the world about Yeltsin's health by providing exhaustive briefings, the Kremlin is filtering news through a web of spokespeople, heavilyedited footage and exasperatingly incom-

- Moscow Times

BADIO & TV

Preview: He was a charismatic President but he kept dangerous company: Secret Lives: JFK (Channel 4) Review: Peter Barnard on TV motormouths Pages 38, 39

OPUGON

A reasonable bid

The benefit to all London's auction houses of cleaning their business is dearer now than it has everPage 19

Tories for democracy fi

The 1922 Committee should concentrate on 2002 and what it can do to advance the party's prospects. That requires a 100 per cent - not 35 per cent - commitment to democracy

Cry wolf in earnest

Beside the ox the ass and the sheep, the wolf is an unusual candidate for Christmas benevolence. But this is the last chance for the Ethiopian wolf.....

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

Bosnia is becoming Britain's secand Northern Ireland. In Ulster, military intervention in support of the civil power was to be strictly temporary. That was a quarter cen-..Page 18 tury ago

ANTHONY BARNETT

Mr Blair has called for a modern Britain. The country is ahead of him and now has a settled desire for democracy, one that will eventually find its expression in written constitutional words Page 18

ALAN COREN Think about it. A tenner will buy you, and the Hagues, a very accept-

able egg-cup.... PETER RIDDELL The real nanny state is the one run

by the Treasury. However much the Government talks about the importance of decentralisation, the Treasury remains determined not to surrender central control over spending.....

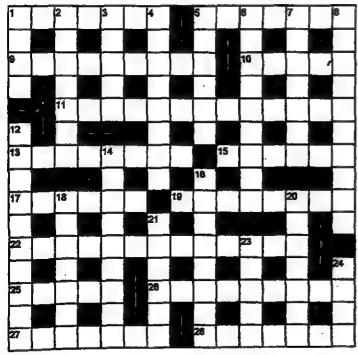
CONTIANES

Stubby Kaye, actor; Professor Frank Mitchell, archaeologist: Roslin Fracer, murse.....

LETENS .

Beef ban; benefit cuts; rural deprivation; renewable energy; Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer; sexism and bowls; gardens in the green belt; Woodrow Wyatt

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,665



ACROSS I Drug hidden in crevice in beam

5 Catches sight of hot puddings? (7). 9 Lots came swirling round head of psychic? (9).

10 Lightweight attack, short of power up front (5). II When material shatters in pot.

possibly (8,5). 13 Refuse to accept wrestling manoeuvre that's forbidden (5,3).

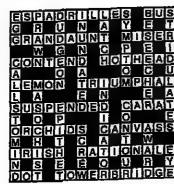
15 Novel form of hat providing cover (6). 17 Hers fluttering round me get

caught in netting (6). 19 Cunning article that's fatally attractive for insects (3-5).

22 Forever giving consecutive jail sentences? (4,5,4). 25 Liner such as Queen Elizabeth 11

26 Superior tonsure? (1,3,5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,664



Captain Corcoran's broken? (7). 28 I'd returned and left girl in a difficult situation (7).

1 Favourites raised the pace (4). 2 Leader of criminals to be imprisoned by soldiers for over four weeks (7).

3 Combination of drinks and drug is a mistake (5). Appreciating it's hard to get in all

the petrol you need? (8). 5 Citing meeting of North America and China? (6).

6 One has men on board ready for an opponent (5-4). 7 Open with a play by Shaw (7).

8 Wear this out in the street, a casual garment (10). 12 Origins of some trendy residences newly crected getting

urban acceptablity (6.4). 14 They may be shown up in learned

literal (9). 16 Complete eighteen holes (3-5). 18 Indistinctly pronounces a Weish place name (7).

20 Seal future fate of Brit about to undertake operation again (7). 21 Ply part of the coast (6). 23 Exhausted? Quite the reverse. when everything's taken into

24 It's a type of hill, some say (but only some) (4). Times Two Crossword, page 44

account (2.3).

IK Westher-All regions 0336 444 910 UK Rends - All regions 0336 401 410

0236 401 746 0336 401 747 0336 401 745 0236 401 910 0336 401 329

The Mat. Office **Weather by Fex** | This | 134 february | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 | 10 236 414 392

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A Car in

NEWSPAPERS

SUPPORT RECYCLING

HOREST & LOWEST

ever business or anything requires you breathe Swissair, Helpful to know that Crosson and Swissair between them offer T daily return flights London-Genevo. Flights you'll find uplithing, no doubt. swissair/4 dsmot ababage

General: it will be windy and very cold over the whole country. The southern half of England and Wales will have snow for a time, but the snow will turn to rain as milder air spreads win unit to fail as tribuer at speaks, from the south. The northern half of England and Wales will have isolated show fluries at first, but more widespread snow is likely before nitider weather arrives in the evening. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a few winty showers, majork in

have a few winty showers, mainty in the east, but sleet and snow will move into southern parts towards evening. Tonight England, Wales and Northern Ireland will become much milder, but memain coursest wat and wints. but remain overcast, wet and windy. Scotland will have heavy sleet and drifting snow, turning to rain later. Criting show, furning to rain least.

I London, SE England, Central S.
England, Charmet Isles, SW England, S Wales: overcast with outbreaks of sleet and snow, quickly turning to rain by midday. A strong southeasterly wind. Max 9C (48F), mildest in the evening.

I E Anglia, E Midlands, N Wales, NW

(43F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland: mostly dry with a lew bright intervals. A strong to gale force easterly wind: Max 6C (43F).

Heputotic of Ireland: rain, sleet or snow moving north. Becoming drier but remaining misty. Wind easterly, strong, locally gale force. Max 6C (43F).

Outlook: much: midder everywhere but taxsetted with rain followed. where, but unsettled with rain followed by sunny spells and showers. It will become much less windy by Friday.

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Changes to the chart below from noon: high S will slowly decline; lows L and M will remain slow moving and gradually fill



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BUSINESS

Janet Bush calls on Labour to be straight with single mothers PAGE 27



HOMES

Great escape from the good life PAGE 35



SPORT

Warne reveals lack of appetite for weighty questions **PAGES 36-44**

TELEVISION AND **RADIO PAGES** 42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17 1997

Moyne company sued over unpaid car bills



The company used by Peter Mattsson and Thomas Jisander

working with Lord Moyne spent up to £40,000 on chauffeur-driven cars in the six weeks before their arrest in connection with an alleged £50 million fraud at Trustor, the

Swedish investment company. Invoices seen by The Times show that Peter Matteson and Thomas Jisander ran up 1,882 on an American stretch limousine, and regularly spent £500 on airport transfers. On one occasion, Mattsson and three guests cruised central London in a Bentley Brooklands, calling at bars and nightclubs including Trader Vics, Monte's, and keni — a regular haunt. The bill for the car came to £732. The cars were supplied by Wings of Desire, an upmarket limousine and motorcycle

Jon Ashworth investigates the murky dealings surrounding the Trustor investment debacle

Management, for alleged non-payment of fees. A judgment in the sum of £6,451.51 was obtained on December 8 in the Central London County Court in favour of High Travel Limited, trading as Wings of Desire.

The move threatens a further embarrassment to Lord Moyne, the author Jonathan Guinness, who fronted the purchase of a majority stake in Trustor in June. Nearly £50 million in Trustor funds went soon afterwards. passing through Lord Movne's London bank account en route to various

bulk of the funds were traced to Luxembourg, where they

Mr. Mattsson and Mr. Jisander were arrested in Stockholm in early November. A third man, Joachim Posener, is being sought by police. Lord Moyne says he was taken in by the Swedes, and took immediate steps to protect Trustor shareholders' funds upon realising some-

Guinness Management accepts liability for two Wings of Desire invoices — including the £1,882 stretch ilmousine but denies any further liabilMr Jisander without authorisation. It intends to contest the

The stretch limousine was hired by Guinness Manage ment on October 11. Mr Mattson and Mr Jisander, accompanied by Lord Moyne and one other, travelled to Compton Beauchamp near Swindon; returning to London five hours later. Guinness Management says the pur-pose was to visit "someone involved in the Trustor deal". Inquiries reveal that Comp-

ton Beauchamp is the country

and amateur horse breeder. Mr Penser controls a company called Yggdrasil, which holds 17.4 per cent in Cortecs International, the drug develop-

Guinness Management acknowledges hiring a motorcy-cle to deliver documents to Biggin Hill airport in Kent on Sunday November 2, shortly before the Swedes were arrested. The documents were handed to Mattsson, who then

caught a flight to Luxembourg. A day earlier, Mr Jisander was taken to Heathrow to fly to an unknown destination. He handed the driver two gold credit cards with instructions to deliver them to the Lanesborough Hotel. The cards were collected by a personal assis-tant to Lindsay Smallbone. Lord Moyne's associate at

BUSINESS TODAY

London alass \$295.25 (\$286.05)

Monsoon

Peter Simon, the founder of the Monsoon retail chain, and his family will be worth around £300 million when the women's clothing and accessories group attempts to ioin the stock market again at the end of January. Page 24

Celebration

Terry Green; chief executive of Debenhams, is to celebrate the department store chain's independence from the Burton Group with a pay package of £3 million. Page 24

company, which is suing Lord

shares lose 60% of their value

Danka

BY PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Danka Business Systems, the Anglo-American photocopier company, lost almost 60 per cent of their value yesterday when it said its profits would fall because of problems integrating its latest and biggest purchase.

its market value collapse from almost £1.2 billion to less than £500 million, as its shares dived from 510p to 2172p — their lowest since 1993.

The company blamed the loss of sales momentum it has suffered because of the integration of its original US photocopier business with the Office Imaging operation bought from Eastman Kodak for about £440 million

Martin St Quinton, chief executive of Danka International, the group's Euro-pean arm, said: "It's our own fault. We've not made the right management decisions, and we have not implemented them fast

Danka expects sales revenue will be about £30 million below expectations in the third and fourth quarters, which will translate into pre-tax profits of about £80 million, against brokers' forecasts of £112 million. Additionally. Danka will make a El26 million charge against its third-quarter results to cover redundancy costs and a £6 million supply shortfall under its agree-

ment with Kodak. Mr St Quinton said the problems meant the company's growth would be about a year behind its original targets. It is forecasting that net earnings for the year ending next March will be between £53.7 million and £55.9 million (23.6p to 24.6p per share) on revenues of around £2 billion. 704Tempus, page 26

BY CAROLINE MERRELL THE Financial Services Au-

thority (FSA), the new super-regulator, delivered a severe public reprimand to Pruden-tial Corporation, the UK's biggest insurer.

The FSA chose to deliver a damning attack on Prudential as its first regulatory action. However, a quirk in the regulatory system means the Prudential will escape a fine.

have suffered six-figure fines. A spokesman for Sir Peter Davis, Prudential's chief executive, said yesterday there was no question of Sir Peter resigning from his position. Sir Peter is also the man entrusted by the Government to run the

Welfare to Work scheme.

The FSA said yesterday an inspection of the company in February found it had failed to correct previous serious rule breaches in connection with its direct sales force of 5,000. In June the Prudential took its sales force off the road for retraining — a process that took until the end of September. It refused to say yesterday how many of its sales force remain with the company.

The damning comments from the FSA, which is in the process of subsuming the other regulators, is the latest embarrassment for Prudential, which has also been severely chastised by Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, for being slow to deal with compensation claims for 70,000 customers who may have been mis-sold personal already received a public reprimand from the Securities and Investments Board, a forerunner of the FSA.

As a result of the regulator's inspection in February Prudential launched a complete overhaul of its management structure. Jim Sutcliffe, head of Prudential Assurance in the UK, Kippa Alliston, head of the direct sales force, and David Linnell, head of compliance, departed, and Sir Peter took direct responsibility for the UK operation after Mr Sutcliffe's abrupt exit in September.

ing of the sales force, the FSA





Sir Peter Davis said: "We have had a lot to put right but no one should doubt . . . our determination to ensure that we have the best industry practices"

surance in the areas of

compliance and training and competence;

That Prudential had an

organisational structure

that allowed the cost of its

own compliance arrange-

PARTICIO EN CAMPASENONS BRIDAN HES ATTENDA

■ The Financial Services Authority said Prudential Assurance failed to implement adequately the requisite corrective action in respect of several breaches identified by previous moni-toring visits. These included severe shortcomings in rela-tion to the training of its direct sales staff and their competence. The FSA said "the gravity, extent and nuture" of contraventions iden-

tified after a monitoring inspection visit indicate: A deep-seated and longstanding failure in managewhich prevented

Prudential Assurance from recognising its own short-A failure satisfactorily to address and remedy defects

previously identified;

A cultural disposition against compliance that filtered through Prudential Assurance's branch offices, their managers and advisers: That unsuitable sales have been made;

A failure to establish and maintain adequate systems, procedures and controls so as to ensure compliance with regulatory obligations.

ments to take precedence over the interests of its ■ The FSA said it was satisfied that Prodential Assurance's conduct "has fallen substantially below the standards that the public

has insisted that a special compliance unit double checks all new policies sold by the division. The FSA said Prudential's conduct had fallen substantially below the standards expected. It added: "The FSA expects Prudential Assurance to be able to organise its own affairs in compliance with its regulatory obligations so as to ensure that its investors may benefit from the safeguards provided for by

the regulatory system." Sir Peter said: "We have had a lot to put right but no one should doubt the strength of our determination to ensure that we have the best industry practices in terms of selling

and compliance. "The board and I want Prudential to achieve the high-est standard of integrity and probity in all of our businesses and we are working to ensure this happens." John Elbourne, Prudential

Assurance's managing direc-tor, admitted that the comsample some of the thousands of life insurance savings polihave a right to expect from a regulated firm." cies that have already been sold by the direct sales force. The regulator is concerned that the sales force had been selling with-profits savings policies to non-taxpayers. These policies have already been subject to tax which cannot be reclaimed by investors; other products may be more suitable. Mr Elbourne

said the company would have

to offer redress to any custom-er who had been mis-sold a life

insurance savings plan. Commentary, page 25

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MILLENNIUM HARBOUR, CANARY WHARE, LONDON E14

Bass to return £850m after selling pubs

By ADAM JONES

BASS is to return £850 million to shareholders after selling 1,428 pubs to a venture capital team that includes two of the UK's most successful restaurant entrepeneurs.

The market is now waiting for Bass to make a big acquisition, possibly hotels in Europe or the Far East. After returning the £850 million to shareholders through a bonus issue of redeemable preference shares, Bass said it would still be able to spend £1.5 billion or more, assuming that shareholders approve the return in February.

The leased pubs are being bought by a venture headed by Hugh Osmond. the entrepeneur and Pizza Express veteran, Roger Myers, co-founder of the Pelican group, which included Cafe Rouge and is now owned by Whitbread, and Alan McIntosh, a non-executive director of Topps Tiles, a current stock market high-flyer.

BT Capital Partners Europe, the private equity arm of Rankers Toust is

private equity arm of Bankers Trust, is funding the deal. The three members of the management team are also investing "a significant" but undisclosed amount. The trio are all share-holders of Grovebase, which bought 845 pubs from Nomura earlier this

year. Mr McIntosh said there are no plans to merge the two ventures.

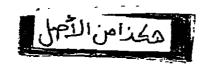
The Bass pubs being sold made an operating profit of £67 million before central charges, interest and tax. They are mainly smaller, tenanted houses, serving local communities, although there are about 100 city centre sites.

Richard North, Bass finance direc-tor, said: "Profit from these pubs over the last three years has been absolutely flat. They have generated cash but have not grown." Bass will now concentrate on its managed estate. Paul Slattery, a Dresdner Kleinwort Benson analyst, said Bass had received a good price for the pubs. Their new

owners aim to expand the amount of food offered. Mr McIntosh said: There are 400 pubs in this portfolio which don't offer any food at all, not even a sandwich." Mr McIntosh said they would

continue to take Bass beers but not on an exclusive basis. Staff will be asked to come up with a name for the new venture in a competition. He said head office staffing would not be cut.

The deal comes as a blow to Nomura, which had been seen as a frontminner for the Bass pubs. Bass shares rose 4p to 899p yesterday.





Regis Lemaitre is Bars Manager of the Old Course Hotel, St. Andrews.













With a seventeen year old Islay single malt as subtle and as complex as Ardheg everyone finds different elements that particularly appeal in its perfectly

balanced flavour. Connoisseurs are agreed, however, that Ardbeg is one of the world's

truly great males. Find out for yourself what

Ardbeg tastes like to you by buying a bottle at Oddbins and other discerning specialists.



Debenhams chief earns Caspian to site £40m as demerger nears arena at The Line of the site £40m arena at The site £3m as demerger nears

TERRY GREEN, chief executive of Debenhams, is to celebrate the department store chain's independence from the Burton Group with a pay package of £3 million, taking the lion's share of a £10 million

boardroom bonanza. Mr Green, who took the helm at Debenhams three years ago, has carved himself a ' £1.9 million Christmas bonus after cashing share options on top of his £662,000 salary.

The group, which will pay £750,000 in bonuses to its four top directors this year, is also allowing everyone to cash in every share option. This could

trigger an extra £240,000. Joe Hoerner, who will remain chief executive of the Burton Group when it is renamed Arcadia, was paid £816,000 but did not cash in any of his share options — which are now worth £3.6 million.

Each director will be given the chance to cash in every share option — including those which would otherwise remain locked up until 2003. However. the company suggested that many of the directors will transfer the options for use

after the demerger.

The company detailed the payouts in its demerger document yesterday which suggest-ed that Debenhams is likely to have a market capitalisation of El.6 billion. It also published further details of its substantial roll-out plan which, it says, will create 4,000 jobs over the next three years after £300 million of expenditure.

Mr Green was well received in the City yesterday after his first solo presentation as head of Debenhams. Burton Group shares rose 24 p to 1434 p, valuing the company at £2.1 billion. Even after the demerger, the two companies will remain strongly linked through the

Arcadia concessions which re-main trading in Debenhams department stores. The outlets, ranging from
Top Man to Racing Green,
generate 10 per cent of Debenhams sales and enjoy a preferential deal in hiring space.
Mr Green said this preferen-

tial arrangement will be ended over the next three years, but played down analysts' fears that the Arcadia facias could drag profits by competing with Debenhams' extensive range of

Council yesterday delivered a

savage attack on the UK's

banking industry, accusing

banks of adopting an insensi-

tive attitude to those who ran

The NCC report compared the policies pledged by the banks with the testimony of

advice workers who deal with

consumers facing financial

it claimed the banks had

infringed their own policies by

treating hard-up customers in an unreasonable or intimidat-

ing manner. The report

emphasised the banks needed

to improve if they were to live

up to their 1997 revised code of

David Hatch, NCC chair-

man, said: "Life's upsets and

upheavals - divorce, illness,

unemployment - hit consum-

ers in the pocket as well as in

the face. Even the good things

in life, like a new baby or a

family wedding, can leave you

"It's at these crucial times that customers too often find

their banks at their most

obtuse and unhelpful. A tem-

suddenly strapped for cash.

into financial difficulty.



Terry Green, left, and Matthew Roberts, finance director, can cash in all their share options

own brands. The demerger, which should deliver cost savings of up to £15 million a year, will be put to a shareholders' vote next Monday. If approved, dealings of Deben-

overdrafts, extra charges and

"But putting people in a position where they may lose

their home, or be unable to

pay essential bills simply pre-

vents them becoming solvent again. That doesn't help the

While banks asked customers in financial trouble to

contact them early, the report

said their attitude was often

bank or the customer.

intimidatory.

bounced cheques.

Banks accused

of being 'obtuse

and unhelpful'

THE National Consumer rals into a vicious circle of

begin on Boxing Day. Arcadia, which remains Britain's largest high street fashion retailer, made pre-tax

Firms take

the knife

to canteen

subsidies

By Graham Searjeant

FINANCIAL EDITOR

COST-CONSCIOUS em-

ployers have cut annual subsidies to works canteens

and staff restaurants by an

average of £25 per head, a

survey claims. But more

employees are using them. Outside caterers have im-

proved service and class

distinctions are fading fast,

73 per cent now having only one dining room. This has

pushed subsidy costs per

customer down by a quarter. The average subsidy came down from £210 per employ-

ee in 1993 to E185 in 1996, but

the cost per user fell by near-

ly £100 a year to £275, mainly

through cutting waste, con-trolling food costs better and

improving labour efficiency.

above the rate of inflation.

Deloitte & Touche Hospitality and Leisure Consulting, who

surveyed 1,000 sites serving

260,000 people jointly with the Industrial Society, found

that average prices for a standard basket of items rose

while the relevant price index

Yet prices have been raised

hams and Burton Group will £1.4 billion in the year to August 30. Debenhams made £120 million on sales of £1.3 billion in the same period.

GORDON BROWN remains

on course to undershoot the

Government's target for pub-lic borrowing with the Trea-sury maintaining an Iron grip

on public spending, new data

published yesterday showed.

The public sector borrowing requirement (PBSR) for Nov-

ember totalled £2.3 billion, compared with £2.6 billion

last year. This leaves the total

PSBR for the first eight months of the year standing at £6.6 billion, £11.3 billion lower

than last year. Economists sald the Chan-

cellor was in a strong position to improve on the Treasury's

PSBR forecast, even though it

was only revised down from £10.9 million to £9.5 billion in

the pre-Budget report last

Adam Cole, UK economist

at James Capel, said: "We

continue to believe that the

downwards revisions that the

Chancellor made to his bor-

rowing projections were over-

cautious and an undershoot for the full year is still likely." But David Hillier, UK

economist at Barclays Capital,

Public spending

below forecast

of Chancellor

By Alasdair Murray, economics correspondent

Elland Rd

By JASON NISSÉ

CASPIAN GROUP, which owns Leeds United, the Premiership football club, is to invest more than £50 million to build a 14,000-seat indoor arena next door to Leeds' ground at Elland Road and to redevelop one of the ground's stands.

The move, which comes in tandem with Caspian changing its name to Leeds Sporting, will bring Leeds City Council in as a shareholder in the group, with the right to appoint a director to

The council is selling Leeds Sporting the freehold of Elland Road as well as most of the land around the stadium which is currently used for car parking, for a total of £11.6 million. Of this £2.5 million is pay-

able in shares — giving the council a stake of slightly under 3 per cent — and another £1.3 million can be taken in shares. Councillor Alec Hudson, the council's deputy leader, is expected to join Leeds Sporting's board. The group has agreed to build the indoor arena on the site, which it estimates will £40 million. Leeds Sporting's new ice hockey and pasketball teams will be based in the arena. Chris Akers, the group's chairman, hopes to attract up to 25 events, such as rock concerts.

each year. Leeds Sporting is also going to redevelop the West Stand of Elland Road to add 5,000 extra seats and 32 new executive boxes. It is also looking for partners to build a 200-room three star hotel and some restaurants and leisure

facilities on the site. Mr Akers said Leeds Sporting would be able to fund the whole redevelopment without going back to its shareholders. The group will finalise the financing in the spring, but it is expected to include either a bond issue or an investment

by a third party. The group also published its results for the 18 months to June 30. It lost £3.27 million before tax. On a pro-forma basis, it lost £6.23 million in the year to June 30, largely because of a Ell.8 million loss on football player transfers. The loss per share for the year was 2.27p and there is no dividend. The shares fell 4p to 224p.

down public spending in the

next few months as it is clear

that not all Labour MPs are

prepared to accept "sticking to Kenneth Clarke's 'eye-wateringly tight' spending

targets."
Central government departmental outlays were 4 per cent lower than last November.

ensuring total spending this financial year is 1 per cent below the levels seen last year.

compared with a predicted

rise of 1.1 per cent. Economists, however, point-

ed to signs that tax receipts are

also below expected levels,

with total receipts only 5.2 per

cent shead from last year

compared with a forecast rise

Income tax receipts fell

sharply due to lower corpora-

tion tax revenues, which re-

flect some companies changing the end of their financial year. There was also

a negative impact from an

alteration to the schedule for

paying corporation tax.

Receipts will be boosted next month by the first instalment

of the windfall levy, which will add an extra £2.6 billion to the Treasury's coffers.

of 8.2 per cent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Tradepoint chief's pay set at £250,000

TRADEPOINT, the loss-making investment exchange, said yesterday that it is paying Nic Stuchfield, its new chief executive, £250,000 a year plus a performance-related bonus. Mr Stuchfield was also granted four million share options, exercisable at 40p. Tradepoint shares closed at 60p yesterday, down 3p. One third of the options will be vested in November 1999, another third in November 2000, and the final tranche in November 2001. Mr Stuchfield ioined Tradepoint from Barclays Golbal Mr Stuchfield joined Tradepoint from Barclays Golbal Investors, where he was chief operating officer.

Tradepoint made a loss of £3 million in the six months to Spetember 30. Last year, Gavin Casey, the chief executive of the London Stock Exchange, received £24,000 in pension contributions for just trades gight acceptable in the second state of the contributions of the second state of the second state of the second under eight months' work after his appointment.

BT to clarify price list

BT will have to draw up a clear and comprehensive price list for its services after an intervention by Don Cruickshank, the Director-General of Telecommunications. Mr Cruickshank has issued a notice to BT saying he proposes to take action over the company's failure to publish an accurate and comprehensive list. Oftel found during an investigation that a number of prices were missing from its list and has subsequently found further examples of unclear or ambiguous entries.

Wickes sales ahead

WICKES, the DIY retailer that almost collapsed last year when it discovered a £50 million black hole in its accounts, yesterday issued an upbeat trading statement saying that like-for-like sales had risen 10.2 per cent in the 48 weeks to November 29. Shares in the company, which is still the subject of a Serious Fraud Office investigation, rose 4½p to 254p, having plunged from a high of 858½p last year. Analysts now expect the company to report year-end pre-tax profits of £8.5 million in February, compared with previous forecasts of £6 million.

Peter Black expands

PETER BLACK HOLDINGS, the healthcare company, is acquiring Ferroscan (UK), a fellow supplier of vitamins, minerals and supplements, from Denmark's Ferroscan A/S for around £35 million. Ferroscan is expected to report pre-tax profits of £3 million on turnover of around £22 million in the current financial year. Peter Black is raising £18.5 million via a vendor placing of new shares at 370p. Existing shares rose 7p to 388½ p yesterday. Peter Black said the acquisition would enhance earnings next year.

United Industries bid

UNITED INDUSTRIES has made an agreed £13.8 million bid for Neepsend, the engineering group, which values it at 55p a share. Shares in Neepsend rose 102p to 522p in response even though it declared that it was in bld talks on November 26. Kenneth Coates, United chairman, said: "The acquisition is in line with our strategy to develop the company both organically and by acquisition." The offer entities Neepsend shareholders to retain the net interim dividend of 0.6p a Neepsend share, payable on January 28.

Care UK advances

CARE UK, the specialist care outsourcing company, lifted profits to £4.42 million from £3.52 million before tax and exceptional items in the year to September 30. In addition, the company raised E8.72 million from the Haven Management subsidiary and Care UK Investments. Adjusted earnings rose to 8.6p a share from 6.79p. The total dividend is increased to 1.25p a share from 1p with a 0.85p final. The shares rose 52p to 144p yesterday. The company has long-term tenders with City of Westminster social services and West Hertfordshire health authority.

Warning hits Alumasc

SHARES of Alumasc fell 63½p to 242½p after the engineering and construction products group gave warning that interim pretax profits would fall short of last year's comparable figure of £6.5 million. Although the second half would show an improvement over the first-half results for the full year, after chargeing restructuring costs, profits would be below last year's £14.8 million. A restructuring charge of El million will be incurred this year and next. Alumase said trading had been hit by variable demand and higher margin pressure for many products.

Minmet extends search

A WIDER exploration of a potential gold find in Devon is to begin in January 1998. Minmet, the Irish company sitting on the potential find near Crediton, yesterday revealed details of a cash raising to finance the further exploration. Minmet is putting a further £200,000 into Crediton Minerals via a 17p a share subscription for 1.176 million new shares. Shares in Minmet were unchanged at 5p yesterday. After yesterday's announcement Minmet will increase its shareholding in Crediton from 75.58 per cent to 78.73 per cent.

TOURIST RATES

rose only 10 per cent and actual food costs 12 per cent. gave warning that Mr Brown could still face a battle holding porary shortage of cash spi-Monsoon blows towards stock market with new flotation plan

Simon holding worth £300m

PETER SIMON, the founder of the Monsoon retail chain. and his family will be worth about £300 million when the women's clothing and accessories group attempts to join the stock market again at the end of next month.

Initial City estimates value Monsoon, founded by Mr Simon during 1973 with one shop in London's Beauchamp Place, at between £280 million and £350 million. It was revealed yesterday that the company is 96 per cent owned by two trusts based in Guern-sey operated by Credit Suisse Trust as trustee on behalf of Mr Simon and his family.

A previous attempt to float

Monsoon was halted after brokers were unable to identify ownership of about two thirds of the shares.

NatWest Markets is sponsor to the float and NatWest Securities is stockbroker. In July 1996 BZW resigned as stockbroker to the flotation over what was believed to be the failure of Monsoon to clarify ownership of two trusts, based in Malta, that owned 67 per cent of the company. It is believed that BZW found underwriting the issue difficult because of the Maltese jurisdiction in which such a large slab of the company was held.

The BZW float is believed to

million. It is believed that Mr Simon has been advised to diversify his investments. No new money will be raised for the company during the institutional placing although other senior directors will be invited to participate. The outstanding 4 per cent of the company is already owned by directors and senior management.

have valued Monsoon at £250

Monsoon directors also believe that the listing will help the company to reward its employees via share ownership and share options because it needs to attract and hang on to top quality managers.

The group has grown to a chain of 200 Monsoon and Accessorize outlets around the world. The first Accessorize store opened in Covent Garden in 1984. Profits before tax in the year to end May reached £25.4 million from sales of £108 million. The Monsoon format trades from 103 locations in Britain, and 24 overseas. Accessorize trades from 179 shops in Britain, 103 of which are concessions within Monsoon outlets. Accessorize also operates four shops overseas.Turnover has grown every year since foundation and trading profits have increased in each of the last 12

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assets. The job losses will be mainly in the tobacco

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17 1997.

The man from the imprudential

ir Peter Davis is one of the country's leading industrialists. After starting out at I Sainsbury, he thought on to be chief executive of Réed International, restructuring the publishing group and guiding it to a successful merger with Elevier. successful merger with Elsevier of The Netherlands. After falling to rip off customers. And it is not alone. According to Direct Line — which admittedly might have out with the Dutch, he took a multi-million pay off and was parachuted into Prudential a vested interest in playing up these problems — in the last seven years, life companies have pocketed \$500 million of tax brakes intended for people who they have the problem of the pocketed \$500 million of tax brakes intended for people who they have the problem of the problem. as just the man to bring stability after the ousting of Mick Newmarch. He was knighted in the last administration, but was well enough thought of by Chancellor Gordon Brown to be invited to head the Welfare to Work initiative. Nonetheless, if Sir Peter is not careful, this glorious career is about to prope took up personal pension plans thanks to high up-front charges thanks to high up-front charges and poor redemption values. According to the Office of Fair. Trading, financial services company selling to the elderly routinely rip them off. And when Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary, took to naming and shaming the firms that mis-sold pensions and were tardy in glorious career is about to come or sheer bravado that led Sir pensions and were tardy in paying compensation, the list stretched to cover the lion's share.

of the industry.

Does this excuse Sir Peter? No. Though he came to the Pru from outside, he was a non-executive director for many years. Yes-terday he said he did not realise, the extent of the problems until he had been chief executive for 18 months, and then it took him another year to realise that the only way to solve the problem was to get rid of Jim Sutcliffe. who ran the Pru in the UK, and take charge himself. In other words, it took one of the UK's best paid and most repected



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

business leaders more than 26 months to realise there was something rotten at the heart of

the company he ram and do something about it.

The position is not totally black.
The FSA says the Pru has shown improvements. Will this be enough? Sir Peter has taken a high profile on this matter and effectively named and showed him. ectively named and shamed himself. His credibility and that of the Pru is fragile. Drastic action is needed to redeem the situation.

Calling time on a brewer's diversion

havever else can be said about Bass, it certainly knows how to sell things. The likes of Matthew Clark and Merrydown can testing the said the said that the said the said that the said iffy to the brewers ability to market its odious; alcopop, Hooch Carlsberg-Tetley is feel-ing the cold blast from brands such as Carling Black Label,

Caffrey's and Worthington And in successive days, Bass has the other by Bankers Trust — to take tired, low growth assets off Bass's hands for fancy prices. Yesterday's deal is, if anything.

even better than Monday's sale of the Gala bingo operation. Gala may not have any growth in it, but it is the sort of thing management buy ins are made of, throwing off cash to fund interest payments on the debt in the deal while the managers hope to squeeze the sort of margins that big companies often fail to find. Sir Ian Prosser was glad to be rid of it and must have been laughing all the way to the bank when the cheque for 5200 million part delimend. £279 million was delivered.

The pubsideal was even better. Bass managed to persuade a team including Hugh Osmond of Pizza Express and Roger Miles of Cafe Rouge to enter into a bidding war with Nomura,

which in the past has been able to pay more for pubs than anyone else through the simple expedient of needing a much lower return on capital than most other organisations. Bass therefore re-ceives £573 million for a low growth business it does not want ahead of what many feel will be a plateau in the leisure sector as the economy slows. Bass still has one remaining low growth and unloved business — Coral racing. If all goes to form, this should be heading out the stable door in the not too far distant future at a fancy price.

future at a fancy price.

However, all these sales create their own problem - what to do with the money? Bass is giving E850 million back to shareholders but it still has about £1.5 billion burning a hole in its pocket. What will it spend it on? Greenalls? Vaux? International hotels? How about not spending this money. Instead of growing, maybe Bass should shrink.

Pubs and hotels often go well

together, but brewing and hotels rarely do. Holiday Inns has never been a terribly good business for Bass and it detracts from the business which Bass is good at - drinks. So on Sir lan. Demerge hotels so it can either thrive or be bought by someone dedicated to the hotels business. Give the spare cash to shareholders and concentrate on brewing.

No money is dirty if you are broke

overnments would sweep the illegal "black economy" under the carpet were it not under the carpet already. It is a living insult to the state, which has failed to reach millions of papels who to be also to be a state. millions of people who work and trade without paying the same taxes as everyone else.

In Western countries, these bands of outlaws compound their felony by claiming social security benefits to which they are not entitled. In all countries they tend to corrupt.

They corrupt workers who are

forced by employers to operate outside the system and can be blackmailed into further crimes. They corrupt consumers, who become willing accessories to

save VAT on home repairs. They corrupt honest employers who have to cut corners to compete. They corrupt officials and they corrupt Swiss banks.

No wonder the IMF purred when South Korea brought in laws to force people to use their own names in all financial transactions. No cost-saving

nominees for them. In times of need, however, the black economy can come in jolly handy. Pragmatists in Italy want to add as much of the unmeasurable as they dare to their measured national income to pass Maastricht tests on debt ratios.

Korea is in greater need. So it plans to waive the law and issue \$2 billion in "false name" bonds that you can buy, own or sell in any name you please as long as you lend the Government your ill-gotten cash. You can, it seems, rely on the criminal classes much more than on the IMF.

European union

COMMERCIAL UNION is never likely to be the same again when Pehr Gyllenhammar, once boss of Skandia Life and Volvo, takes the chair. CU was long the most Europe-minded of composites, until BAT met Zurich. Sweden's top francophile is something else. His plan to merge Volvo into Renault was too much for other Swedes, but so much of UK finance has fallen into foreign hands that few would notice another proud dom-

Upbeat Toad cuts loss

Corporation, where he was seen

to an ignominous end.

Was it arrogance, bad advice

Peter to put himself at the centre

of the his company's "The Man from the Pru" advertising cam-

paign? It does not matter. Sir Peter appears on our TV screens

saying you can trust me. But the new Financial Services Au-

thority says the Pru has "a deep-

seated and long-standing failure seated and long-standing failure in management", "a cultural disposition against compliance" and "allowed the cost of its own compliance to take precedence over the interest of its own

investors". It mis-sold pensions

and it mis-sold life assurance. It

used a reputation created over decades of honourable behaviour

Toad, the car security com-pany which has the back-ing of Noel Edmonds, the TV personality, yesterday said it had more than halved pre-tax losses from £2.5 million to £1.1 million in the six months to September 30.

Although turnover rose only 6 per cent from £2.7 million to £2.8 million. Kevin Gray, the company's chief executive, said he would be disappointed if turnover did not hugely increase within two years.

The positive outlook will perhaps come too late for many investors who have seen the value of their shares collapse from 1172p to 20p since last year. They rose 1/2p to 21/2p after yesterday's results. However, the republica of star of the City who helped to create Toad, relies on its long-term success.

Toad's losses per share fell from 14.30 to 4.15p, and again no dividend will be paid. The company is expected to move into profit.

Homebuying 'slows down'

New figures from Barclays have confirmed the slowdown in growth in the housing market. According to the bank's Mortgage hadez, which is based on the flow of funds through solicitors' deposit accounts, lending dropped 4 per cent last month to £6.7 billion, the third fall in four months. This is I per cent down on the level last November.

Successive rises in interest rates have dented homeowners' belief in rising house prices. Fifty-one veyed by the bank thought their homes would be worth more in 12 months' time, down 6 per cent. At the same time competition amongst homebuyers has wanted slightly. For every ten properties on the market there are now 21 people wanting to buy a home, compared with 23 three months ago.

Kenwood fall

Kenwood, the electrical appliances manufacturer, vesterday claimed that the strength of sterling had wiped aimost £2 million off profits and nearly £10 matthou off sales. The comparry saw pre-tax profits for the six months to October 3 dip from £3.3 million to £2.2 million. fell from £98 million to ESI million. The shares & 62p to 1112p. Earnings per share fell to 3.6p (4.9p). There is no dividend (3.25p).

RJR jobs to go RJR Nabisco Holdings, the US food and tobacco company, is to cut 2,800 jobs wurldwide RJR. which owns brands such as Camel, said it would be taking a fourth-quarter \$390 million (£233 million) charge to cover the job. losses and writedown in



Greenalls to pour in £200m investment as profits rise 6%

By CHRIS AYRES

GREENALLS, the pubs and eisure group still recovering from a shock profits warning in September, yesterday admitted that it had suffered a difficult year and refused to say whether or not it was in takeover talks.

There was some room for Christmas cheer, however, as the group reported a 6 per cent ... rise in pre-tax profit for the ear to September 26 from £149 million to £157 million. Shares in the company rose 14p to 422 2p, a significant recovery from its 315p low in November, but still along way from its high of 633p last year.

ALLIED DOMECQ, the drinks and retailing group with such brands as Ballantine's Scotch and Big Steak Pubs, yesterday said it had signed a deal to introduce a wider range of

beers to its 3,700 outlets (Chris Ayres writes).

The move—which represents a major change in its beer supply arrangements—includes a deal with Scottish Courage, one of

the UK's biggest brewers, which will see

tor, said: "We recognise that 1996-97 was a disappointing year, but the best way to get over this is to perform well." The company's share price was hit when Lord Daresbury. chief executive; said that exrivals were pumping enor-

"Any operator who says they haven't got a problem with the doubling of capital expenditure nationally cannot we're now punching our weight in expenditure, al-

blocked the sale of Carlsberg-Tetley to Bass. The company's main shareholder is now Carlsberg. though we're not throwing money at the business."

Foster's lager distributed to about 700 of

et Beckett, President of the Board of Trade,

Speculation has surrounded Greenalls since September that rivals such as Whitbread and Bass are preparing takewhich owns such brands as Henry's Cafe Bars. Henry's Table and Miller's Kitchen.

Allied's managed and tenanted pubs.
Allied's decision to widen its range of beers comes after a shake-up at Carlsbery-Tetley.
which used to be jointly owned by Allied and for the year ahead would be more than £200 million. It also announced a restructuring of its pub and pub restaurant businesses, including the transfer of 324 pubs from its managed estate to its franchised and tenanted operations. Total turnover was almost unchanged at £1.1 billion, with

expected by analysts, Green-

alls said planned expenditure

earnings per share rising 3.6 per cent from 40.28p to 41.72p. Like-for-like sales rose about (per cent, in line with the sector. A final dividend of 10p is due on February 27, making a total of 16.71p (15.4p).

First Choice takes off in spite of costly errors finance director. Mr Clubb

FIRST CHOICE Holidays excreded analysts' expectations to report an increase in fullyear pre-tax profit of £5.4 million to £15.4 million after exceptional items. The shares rose 2p to 93p.

The exceptional items included a £8.6 million charge which the company had already announced at the half year in June after discovering

accounting errors. This charge was countered with a £2 million exceptional

gain in the year to October 31. Before exceptionals, pre-tax profit on continuing tions was £22 million (£9.3 million) and the company attributed the strong performance in part to a 39 per cent increase in summer profits to £46.3 million. It said bookings to date were ahead of last year in both its UK and Canadian

businesses. lan Clubb, chairman, said: "We are also encouraged by in the UK and Ireland."

In the year to October 31 First Choice sold 1.6 million summer holidays. 600,000 winter holidays from the UK, one million holidays to customers in Canada and 150,000 in Ireland.

Mr Clubb said the board had decided to hold the dividend at 1.9p, making the full year dividend the same as for 1996 at 2.8p. At present it is the equivalent of just under two times covered and the group is aiming to achieve three times cover before raising it.

Basic earnings per share improved to 3.7p (2.1p). After adjusting for exceptional items, carnings per ordinary share were 5.4p (1.9p).

First Choice strengthened its board by appointing Lance Moir as director of planning

and David Howell group as

said the industry was waiting for the results of the ruling on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into tour

A ruling by the Department of Trade and Industry is not expected until the end of January 1998.

Tempus, page 26

CU chief to consider all options

By MARIANNE CURPHEY INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE chairman designate of Commercial Union, Pehr Gyllenhammar, said his first priority would be to assess whether the insurer needed to consider a merg-

er in the fast-changing world of financial services. CU has been the subject of intense merger speculation ever since it emerged that it had held talks with BAT Industries about a possible joint venture before BAT announced a

link-up with Zurich Life. "What was a big business few months ago is now a lot smaller and one of the first things I shall need to do when I take up the chairmanship is to discuss with the board how we are positioned in the market,"

Mr Gyllenhammar declined to be drawn on specific plans, saying that having joined CU's board in September he was still "very becomes chairman in April.

Securicor shares drop after sharp profits fall

MEDIA EDITOR

SHARES in Securicon, the security, distribution and telecommunications group, dropped by 13p so 294p in a rising market yesterday after the company disclosed a sharp drop in pre tax profit.

They plummeted from 107.4 million for the year to September 30 last time to £31.4 million, mainly because of exceptional items and discontinued operations of £70 million; mainly from the communications division.

Even before these were taken into account, Securicor's pre-tax profits fell from £112.7 million in 1996 to £101.4 million this year. More than £44 million came

from losses on closure of the separate service provider for Cellnet, its mobile phone joint million to £120 million for the venture with BT. Consumer current financial year. and small business subscrib-

period".

Wiggs: exceptional losses

corporate customers to Martin Dawes. A further £20.8 million came from Securicor's share of an abandoned computer billing system. City analysts are now looking for pretax profits of between £110 good start to the current The company, whose chief

executive is Roger Wiggs, showed 27 per cent profit in its security and distribution businesses to £48 million. Profits from Securicor's 40 per cent stake in Cellnet rose from £76.6 million to £79 million. latek, the wireless communications company in the US. lost £13 million. Securicor said yesterday it

had no knowledge of reports that the Department of Trade and industry planned to change the rules, enabling BT to buy its 40 per cent Cellnet stake. Christopher Shirtliffe. finance director, said Securicar would be prepared to sell at the right price if the rules allowed.

Securicor is increasing its final dividend by 12.1 per cent surrent financial year. to 1.35p, making 1.74p for the Sir Neil Macfarlane, full year, an increase of 11.7 ers were sold to Cellnet and Securicor chairman, said yes per cent.

National must sell Citylink

MARGARET BECKETT, the President of the Board of Trade, has ruled that the National Express Group, which acquired the ScotRail franchise earlier this year, must sell Scottish Citylink, its subsidiary.

The decision follows a

ruling by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission of a conflict of interest between some of the coach services operated by National Express and ScotRail. The report concluded that

nine routes operated by Citylink overlapped with ScotRail train services and could possibly lead to an increase in faces. National Express said

yesterday that it was disap-pointed with the outcome, but added that they had been expecting the decision "for some time".

Electra may buy back shares to cut discount the Far East fund to below £200 million in an effort to put its discount below 12 per cent.

THE prospect of a share buyback has been raised by Electra investment Trust, the second largest venture capital investment trust after 3i, in an attempt to reduce the trust's sharp discount.

Despite final results that showed the trust achieved total returns of 24.7 per cent in the 12 months to September 30. Electra's share price of 525p still represents an 18.5 per cent discount to its net asset value of 640p.

Michael Stoddart, chairman of the £L1 billion trust, said investing in private equity was increasingly competitive and required ever larger sums of money.

"At the moment we need all our resources to compete in the big auctions," he said. "If in the next year or two we don't win any transactions, then we might consider re-



Stoddart: competition

shareholders." In addition, the trust was seeking to attract new institutional and private investors to widen its shareholder base, Mr Stoddart said.

The statement came as shareholders in Edinburgh Dragon, a £300 million investment trust, voted overwhelmingly for share buyback turning surplus capital to proposals that could reduce per cent on last year.

The buoyant stock market and a boom in mergers and acquisitions saw Electra achieve a record level of realisations. Total sales of unquoted investments rose 30 per cent to 1246 million. The biggest was the £92 million sale of Eversholt Leasing, the train leasing company formerly part of British Rail, to HSBC Banking Group, which netted Electra £58.1 million. Electra has realised another

£90 million since October. At the same time Electra invested £217 million in 32 new unquoted companies. Electra issued a warning

that it was unlikely to maintain this level of investment in the UK but was increasing its focus in the US, Latin American and Far East. A final. dividend of 5.2p brings the total for the year to 9.7p, up 15





Abbey National shares soar on takeover talk

TAKEOVER rumour swept London's financial stocks yesterday as reports of an immi-nent bid for Abbey National triggered a rally that took the sector bursting through the high set before October's mar-

Abbey National shares enjoyed their sharpest one-day rise, gaining 90p to a high of £11.47 on word that the formal takeover bid that has been expected for the past six months could be on the table after Christmas.

Any bank or insurance house not dogged by connection to the turmoil in Asian markets found itself sharply higher on the day. HSBC Holdings, 7p softer

at £15.78, is this month's hot favourite to bag Abbey National. Its shares had plunged to £15.55 in early trading after an 89-point fall in Hong Kong's Hang Seng index, along with Standard Char-tered, 9p cheaper at 689p.

The Prudential Corporation is now seen to be second in the running for Abbey National. It closed 26p stronger at a new high of 749p with no Asian fears to hold the price back.

Hopes of a merger between NatWest Bank, up 46p at El0.45, and Bardays, up 35p at E17.50, resurfaced again. taking shares in both companies to new highs.

As Abbey soared ahead, City matchmakers began to speculate that Royal Bank of Scotland, 4p firmer at 762p. could plan a get-together with Scottish Widows.

Their rise helped the FTSE 100 to rise \$1.6 points to 5203.4 - a level not seen since the September bull run.

City analysts were stunned by the advances, which many out down to the market going mad" - and blind hope that the merger between UBS and SBC Warburg will trigger consolidation in London. One analyst said: "These

pietely unsustainable - it seems the junior dealers have been left to get excited while the older ones go skiing." The drug sector joined the financials' rally, as Lehman Brothers issued a bullish note

highs are just crazy. It's com-

at 651p, in particular.

The positive sentiment

about the sector in general and



Peter Long and Ian Clubb, of First Choice Holidays, 2p better after 137 per cent increased profits to £22 million

gained 6¹2p to a new high of 320p.

Tomorrow's interim results from Asda. off Ip at 174p, are now expected to spell more bad news than good for rival Safeway, which became the worst blue-chip performer after dropping 712p to 337p. Takeover rumours had been helping Safeway shares up

E14.49, while Galen Holdings from their profits-warning floor of 319p, on rumours that Asda was fishing in the debt market. Such hopes have now been all but disregarded, as the City returns to its view that

Asda's gain is Safeway's loss. Eides, the software company that owns Tomb Raider II, delivered a sharp shock to the market when Geoffrey Brown, an executive director,

The grass is no greener IN SILICON VALLEY

London's high-tech stocks have often cast a wistful eye at the sky-high ratings being given to any computer stock that lists in New York's Nasdaq exchange. Ratings of 40 to 50 times earnings have eluded most of the UK crop, which remain officially catego-

rised as "support services". The Stock Exchange has now agreed to create a new FTSE sector for IT stocks.

send their shares heaven-

Almost certainly, the likes of Sems and Misys will be in more demand but not because they are understood any better.

If a new sector is created Tracker Funds will buy shares in the sector to ensure that they remain covered - but they will restrict themselves to the three largest members.

new categorisation is unwork too many 700p a share.

Coming only months after the Stock Exchange launched an inquiry into share dealings in Eidos and after Coopers & Lybrand quit as the company's auditors, the sell hi already twitchy nerves and the shares tumbled from 740p to

Thomas Jourdan, steady at 49¹2p, is beginning to attract City attention. Dealers have been taking orders from Dubspeculation that David Abell who recently usurped its former management after ar institutional revolt, has pu together a takeover deal. Mar ket-makers also said the company's generous allocation of share options to top managers iggests a takeover bid is due.

Nycomed Amersham topped the list of 250 advancers for the last time, gaining 125p to £22.70 on the eve of the healthcare company's promo-tion to the FTSE 100. It fills the gap created by the merger of Guinness, up op to 591 2p and Grand Metropolitan, up 8p to 593p, which become Diageo

this morning.
First Choice Holiday. where Peter Long is managing director and lan Chubb is chairman, hardened 2p to 93p after the holiday operator returned a L37 per cent lift in pre-tax profits, to £22 million. Reduced losses at Toad

moved the car security group's shares up l'ap to 21 ap. The company remains egg on the face of Dr Chris Evans, the made millions for investors of Chriroscience, up lp at 24312p and Ceisis International, off 3p at 86p.

On AlM Majestic Wine firmed 9p to 385p on seasonal cheer. Market-makers were caught short of the stock last year and are shoring up ahead

☐ GILT-EDGED: The PSBR data made little impact in the futures pit, as dealers held fire for today's retail sales data in the hope that a slowdown on the high street will relieve pressure for further interest rate rises. Treasury 7 per cent 2002 gained 132 to £1012732. while index-linked Treasury 212 per cent 2020 dropped 532

YORK: Further gains in the technology sector helped the broader market and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 75.10 points ahead at 7.997.69.

	New York (midday): Dow Jones
	Tokyo: Nikhai Average
	Hong Kong: Hang Seng
	Amsterdam: AEX Index 904.73 (+15.95)
	Sydney: A0
	Frankfort: DAX 4083.97 (+23,93)
	Singapore: 1561.75 (-38.89)
İ	Brussels: General 14205.04 (+216.17)
i i	Paris: CAC-40 29(2.18 (+73.91)
	SEA Gen 1237.0 (+12.3)
t	Loadon
е	FT 30 3313.0 (+40.8)
0	FTSE 100
	FTSE 250 4757.0 (+6.0) FTSE 390 2493.1 (+31.1) FTSE Eurotrack 100 2541.91 (+14.01)
ıt	PTSE Eurotrack 100 2641.91 (+14.01)
1	FTSE AU-Share 2431.52 (+28.41)
e	FTSE Non Pinancials 2434.16 (+22.75) FTSE Fixed Interest
-	FTSE Govt Secs 101,27 (-0.24)
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Bottom of the barrel

Greenalls boasts a remarkably weak share price. After yesterday's rally, the company is valued on just ten times forecast earnings but predators will think twice about bidding £1.5 billion for this motley collection of brands.

Greenalls was once itself a Footsie stock but its fall from grace has been rapid. Having paid over the odds for the Boddington's pub group, the company neglected to invest and the results were on full display yesterday. Cash in the pub and restaurant tills grew by just 1 per cent in the last financial year. Stripping out inflation, the Greenalls business has therefore shrunk during a period of booming leisure and restaurant spend. Of course, Greenalls has a solution. It has dumped the tired pubs into a box called franchising and will invest £100 million in the

FOR a company beset by bid rumours — Bass rest but the money is to be spread, scattergun, and Whithread are said to be prowling — over no less than eight brands, including one

new format

Yesterday, Bass shed 1,000 tenanted pubs which begs the question why it would take on Greenalls' franchised estate. Of course, both Whitbread and Bass could slot Miller's Kitchen and Henry's into their own themed operations. Brewer's Fayre and Harvester. But what is the point of paying a premium for someone else's brand, only to dump the old

signage into a skip? Greenalls' investors might as well hang on in the hope that a silly bid emerges but in the meantime they could take the initiative. The chief executive, Lord Daresbury, has little to recommend him other than the family name Greenall. By sending him to new pastures, he might be spared from doing a Rocco.

Danka

ON THE face of it, the near 60 per cent collapse in the share price of Danka Business Systems yesterday looks a barsh judgment on its earnings disappointment. The photocopier company, a strange Anglo-American hy-brid, cautioned that this year's underlying pre-tax profits will undershoot forecasts by less than 30 per cent. However, this latest setback raises fundamental questions about the quality of Danka's management. No slouch at buying companies, as their enormous growth amply demonstrates, there are doubts about whether it is up to running them. It seems that, whenever Danka stands

still, the tedious business of running the shop gets the better of it. That was certain-

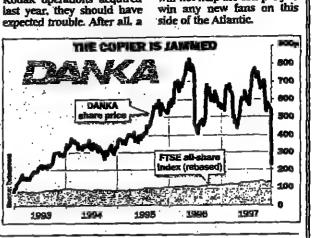
ly the case 18 months ago when Danka issued a profits

warning because it took on too many new sales staff too

The latest setback sounds horribly familiar. Big mergers have a tendency to un-nerve the troops and when Danka set out to knit its original business with the Kodak operations acquired last year, they should have expected trouble. After all, a

managing people, not just staring at spreadsheets. Danka has been admirably frank about its manage-ment shortcomings. But the company still faces a long haul to repair its credibility. This latest episode certainly will not help the company to

service business is about



Arcadia

THIS has been no vintage year for demergers. Thorn EMI shareholders lost billions and Hanson's former followers are out of pocket. Any holder of Burton Group shares could be forgiven for feeling a touch nervous.

Although the industrial logic behind demergers is still far from proven, the City has long been unable to mentally disassociate Burton shares from Burton suits and priced its shares accordingly. Shed of the Burton tag, Debenhams is no longer guilty by association and should be valued on a par with its department store peers. It has targeted the middle market with a core of well-focused own brands and, set down a path for growth, plans to increase

The only snag is the hang over of Arcadia stores, still 10 per cent of sales, where the likes of Top Man and Hawkshead often compete

with the more profitable house brands. Terry Green, chief executive, is a newcomer to the City and will have to prove his worth before the shares can take off.

But a conservative sector average rating for Debenhams gives a value of £1.6 billion, leaving Arcadia priced at only £500 million. For a company with sales of El billion, that looks too cheap and undercuts even Storehouse — which guards the bottom of the sector with

a lowly p/e ratio of 11.3. Unless Christmas sales prove a complete disaster. Burton shares should jump when they do the splits, in the mean time, they must be a

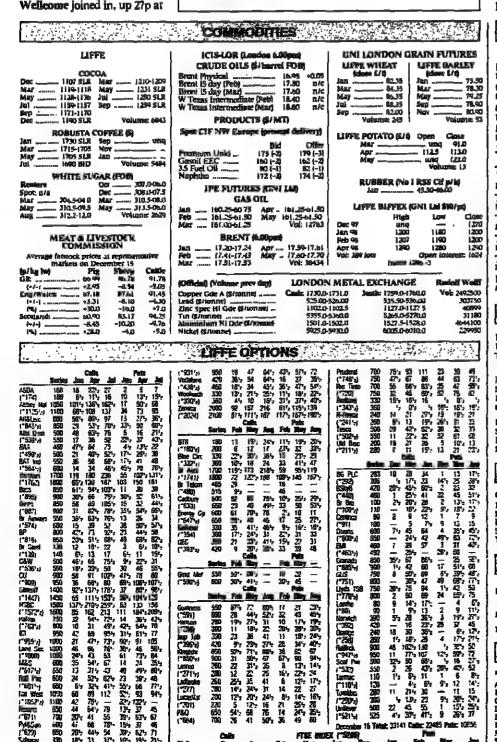
First Choice

FIRST CHOICE'S admission share over the summer peak season should be good news for investors. For too long the industry has chased growth in sales at the expense of margins. The cycle of binge and purge led to a regular end-ofseason fire sale of millions of spare holidays at less than half price.

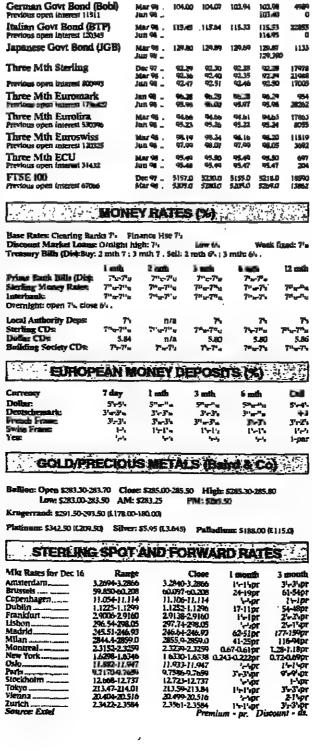
All the tour operators, including Thomson and Airtours, have learnt their lesson and have refrained from piling on capacity when bookings looked strong.

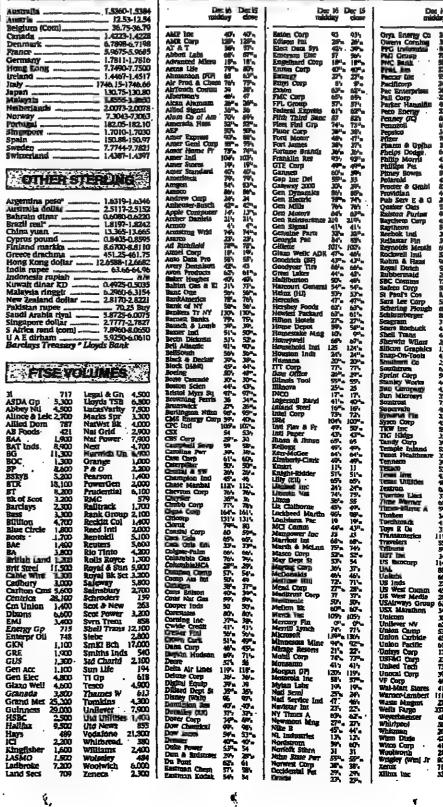
Despite the good progress which Peter Long, the new chief executive, has made since his appointment, there is still much work to be done. Although this year it has been unencumbered by the huge marketing expense of rebranding which took place under former chief executive Francis Barron, its spread of business is narrow compared to Airtours, which has subsidiaries across Scandinavia as well as Canada. Airtours remains a star performer among FTSE 100 stocks, and is still the better stock to hold if you want exposure to this

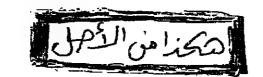
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t is the richest of ironies that new Labour which, in opposition, inspired awe for its presentational skills, now finds itself skewered on its cack-handed packaging of policies that have much to recommend them.

Last week's debacke over cutting the premium on child benefit for lone mothers is a dismaying case in point. Much of Labour's analysis on single mothers and, more broadly, its Welfare to Work aspirations are spot on.

It is true that the best route out of poverty for many love mothers is through work. The Policy Studies Institute, off cited by Harriet Harman, has found that lone parents are, on average, more than £50 a week better off in work. Presumably its figures take into account the fact that many lone mothers suffer from a low level of skills, and when in work, command poor salaries.

It is also right that the old answer of increasing benefits as a

Labour wields stick before dangling carrot

rejected. It has been proven be-youd all reasonable doubt that the most efficient modern economy is the one that provides the proper structure of incentives for people to help themselves and gently discourages reliance on the State. In seeking to dismantle a culture of dependency, the Government is right to employ the carrot of New Deals (whether for lone mothers or the long-term unemployed) but also the stick of making life for those on benefit just a touch more uncomfortable. It has, for example, been proved that countries that put a time limit on unemploy-

ment benefit, have got more longterm jobless into work. What is so wrong about the way that the Government has gone about the issue of lone parents is that it has employed the stick

effectively dangled. It has shown through its new cross-departmen-tal Social Exclusion Unit, for example, that it understands that a holistic approach is needed if it is to succeed in returning the disenfranchised to the economic mainstream. In the case of lone mothers, the Government seems to have mislaid both its good sense and its humanity. Its justification for staging a

fight over lone mothers has been disingenuous. The argument goes that cutting lone mother benefits was a Tory policy. Gordon Brown is committed to Tory spending plans. Ergo, he had to cut. This is nonsense. Mr Brown has found ways, within his inherited control total, of redistributing considerable resources to priority areas such as education and health. He before any of its carrots have been could have found £60 million



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from virtually anywhere. An embattled Tony Blair insisted that the policy was right because his party had been elected as the government of tight public finance. But there were plenty of other, better reasons why Labour was elected, not the least of which was that voters had come to despise a Conservative Party that, among other things, stigmatised election opinion polls showed that more than two thirds of the electorate intended to vote for parties that they believed would raise taxes.

The fiscal machismo emanating from the Treasury, initially designed to gain the confidence of the markets, is becoming tiresome given the dominant view in the City that the public finances are in great shape and that the only reason for the current obsession with fiscal restraint is the Government's desire, like every government before it, to build a war chest in time for the next election.

There is, however, one understandable, reason why the Government risked so much to push through this policy at this junc-ture. It clearly wanted to send 2 signal that it wouldn't duck the genuinely to tackle the task of modernising the welfare state.

The Tories know exactly how tough this will be. Voters hate change, particularly change that penalises, even temporarily, the worse off or the most vulnerable. For all its radicalism, successive Conservative governments never dared to think the unthinkable on the welfare state and simply pared away benefit levels to net the Exchequer some cash. If Mr Brown succeeds in designing a system that leaves a safety net for the very poorest, provides incentives to self-reliance for others. struggling but aspiring, and persuades the better off to dig deeper in their own pockets to finance their own welfare, it will be some achievement. He and his officials

honestly on its potential long-term The timing of the lone mother

skirmish was still awful. The Government knows well that there are horrendous barriers to lone mothers working, including low skills, lack of confidence, glitches in the tax and benefit system which involve prohibitive marginal tax rates on entering work and a paucity of goodquality, affordable child care.

Some of these are being looked at but the infrastructure is nowhere near being in place. The Government's after-schools clubs will not be set up until well after the punitive benefit cut is exacted. Even then, they don't cater for mothers with young babies (nor their fear of leaving those babies in the hands of virtual strangers).

The Government may feel that the strongest possible signal of intent was an attack on the most vulnerable. It seems a gesture too far. It was certainly penal and certainly premature.

should have sold the programme Falling unemployment could soon be at the turning point

Some economists think the long decline of workless may go into

reverse, says Philip Bassett

ployment in Britain go? And after falling virtually constantly for almost five years, is the number of people out of work in the UK now on the turn and set to rise?

The Government will today announce the latest total of people out of work and claiming benefit. Ministers hope that general City estimates that unemployment will show a further fall are right, but some City forecasters suggest claimant count unemployment will soon start to

The record of City economists in forecasting each month's unemployment total is not good. But this time they may be closer to being correct, prompting questions of how low unemployment can go, and whether it is now at or close to a turning point. .

Labour has been concerned for some time that a number of economic factors will combine to start pushing unemploy-ment up again at a time when the Government is taking flak over its Welfare to Work programme and trying to get ione single mothers and others off benefit and into work. That said, a rise in unemployment would mollify critics of the Government's New Deal jobs. programme, who are sceptical that it will be necessary to counter youth unemployment if the number of young people without work is falling.
The Institute of Directors:

says today that the New Deal is much more likely to help the young rather than the longterm unemployed, with more than half its members surveyed ready to take on a young person and only 27 per cent preferring to take on someone out of work for a long period.

Ahead of today's figures, the Government yesterday published new research showing most unemployed people look for work steadfastly and are flexible in their job search. Keith Bradley, Social Security Minister, said the findings showed that "the great majority starting work felt that they were better off than they had been on benefit." With 5.2 per cent of the working population now out of work and claiming

benefit - 1,464,300 in total ciaimant unemployment is not only at its lowest level for 17 years, but it is now below the level seen during the Lawson inflationary boom of the late Eighties, according to a new-report today from the Employ-ment Policy Institute (EPI) iobs think-tank.

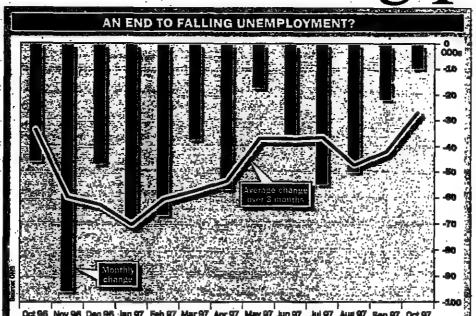
The EPI says: "Whether this in itself is a cause for concerndepends on the level of unemplayment the economy can now sustain." The think-tank concludes: "The official signs are therefore that the jobs recovery is likely, at best, to grind to a halt sometime during the next 18 months. At worst, the labour market improvement-could go into reverse, with unemployment rising slightly."
That view was endorsed by

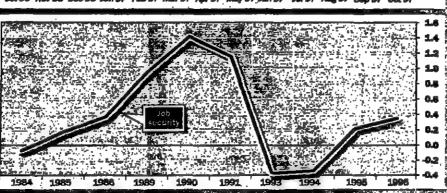
yesterday's latest economic report on the UK from the OECD as part of its twiceyearly Economic Outlook. While the OECD said it still expected a soft landing for the British economy as growth signs, and that the Government's Welfare to Work programme should further belo market, it said too that "the unemployment rate is unlikely to fall much further from

Some economic analysis in the City are going further. Economists at UBS, for instance, predict that today's unemployment figures will rise by 5,000, as increased uncertainty about the comin-ued strength of the economy may be making employers reluctant to hire new staff.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor and the Government's chief job strategist, does not go that far. But his pre-Budget Green Paper sounded a clear warning on jobs, noting that the UK has reached "a critical stage in the economic cycle, where wage inflation and skills shortages have in the past prevented unemployment from falling further.

Will they now combine to do so again? Business is certainly reporting skill shortages. CBI leaders warn that they are a greater barrier to an expansion of output than at any time since the end of the 1980s, though - at the moment, at





least — they are insisting that such shortages are patchy, with pockets in particular areas and sectors, rather than any overall famine.

On wages, average earnings growth is now solidly a full percentage point higher than it was a couple of years ago. While this is hardly racing acceleration, it has been enough to prompt the Bank of England towards further interest rate rises, and the Chancellor to issue increasingly tough warnings on pay, the most recent of which explicitly linked pay to jobs, and to the New Deal programme.

ven so, in historical terms remarkanter subdued, with the subdued, with the most wage sentepattern of most wage settlements still around the 3-4 per cent level, according to most independent pay analysts. The Government's planned nat-lonal minimum wage, which passed another parliamentary stage towards the statute book yesterday when the Commons gave the Bill to introduce it a

second reading, may tick that up, as background papers on it from the Department of Trade and Industry acknowledge. But the Low Pay Commission, under Professor George Bain, is taking extremely seriously its remit to recommend a minimum wage rate that is fully aware of its impact on inflation and the

wider economy. Unemployment in Britain has fallen by more than 1.5 million from its most recent peak in December 1992 of 2,981,100. Unadjusted unemployment, the actual number of people out of work and claiming benefit, topped the three million mark at the time.

But the falls in claimant unemployment in recent months have been getting smaller, as the chart shows. A year ago, the introduction by the then-Conservative Government of the jobseeker's allowance (ISA) to replace the old unemployment benefit played havoc with the claimant figures, with records being broken every month — falls of 66,000, 68,000, 95,000. This volatility has now calmed down as JSA has bedded in. but at just 9,500, last month's fail was the lowest since early 1996. The average change over three months — judged as a better guide to the underlying trend - has now dropped markedly.

But even with falling unem-ployment and new job an-nouncements, redundancies and iob dismissals have remained a feature of the labour

In spring this year, the most recent period for which figures from the Government's Labour Force Survey are available, 460,000 people were made redundant or were dismissed - down only 20,000 from the total of two years

This might explain why feelings of job insecurity, though better than they were as the graph of a job security index shows, are still in

Employment analysts and business leaders are con-cerned that the continuing strength of sterling will lead to

more job losses, combining with skill shortages and wage pressures to push up unem-ployment. While the impact of sterling's appreciation has yet to show up fully in the official trade figures, or in the jobless totals, jobs are continuing to go, especially in manufactur-ing, which is being hit hard by the strong pound.

Redundancy figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show a surge in the number of redundancies in manufacturing. In autumn last year, at 44,000 they formed 24 per cent of the total redundancies recorded. By spring that was up to 61,000, or 30 per cent of the total. New figures from the ONS today are expected to show a further

Thiteball is clearly worried that if unemployment falls much further, inflation will start to rise. In a new analysis published today by the EPI, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research suggests that the sustainable or "steady state" rate of unemployment may now have fallen from around 8-9 per cent at the end of the Eighties to about 7 per In line with most economic

estimates of the so-called natural rate of unemployment, this CLOUSIV CLOSE TO The current claimant unemployment rate, and Ray Barrell and Rebecca Riley from the National Institute suggest today that inflationary pressures would already have been higher had it not been for the strength of sterling over the past year. They point out, too, that economic inactivity in the UK labour market has risen. especially for men.

Some quarter of a million more men have become economically inactive during the course of this recovery, equiva-lent to a third of the fall in male unemployment since 1993, and they suggest that as a result, the UK's sustainable rate of employment has barely changed, leaving Fifties and Sixties style full employment still a long way off.

That means that unemploy-ment could fall a good deal further than its present level. But some economists are starting to stick their necks out and are suggesting that unemploy-ment in Britain may now finally be on the cusp. Today's figures could indicate whether

BUSINESS LETTERS

Our tax-free products will not be in Isa

National Savings
Sir, Mr W. R. Whittle (Letters,
December 12) is mistaken in
suggesting that it is the Government's intention to include the existing tax-free National Savings instruments in Isas.

National Savings offers a wide variety of products, some of which are tax-free and some of which are not. The Inland Revenue's Consultative Document clearly defines the National Savings products which would be eligible for holding within the cash component of Isas as those the returns of which are not otherwise tax-

This means, subject to ratification of the proposals, that investors will be able to hold

From the Chief Executive, National Savings Certificates (both fixed-interest and indexlinked). Premium Bonds and Children's Bonus Bonds, all of which offer tax-free returns, in addition to whatever investments they choose to put within the ISA wrapper.

The National Savings products that will be eligible for the tax concessions offered by Isas are those that pay interest gross, but it is probable that we will also be developing new products specifically tailored

Yours faithfully, PETER BAREAU. Chief Executive, National Savings. Charles House 375 Kensington High Street,

Rail stop shopping next down the line

From Mr John Glover Sir. Maybe some airports are glorified shopping centres (letters, December 9, 12), but what about the private railway station?

At Railtrack's 14 major stations, it is planned " combine necessary . . . works with commercial development, including better retail facilities. Forecast profits ... have been taken into account by the Rail Regulator in determining access charges (to rail operators), and will thus be used to the benefit of

the industry".

Over £25 million will be spent at each of Paddington, waterico, Gia: and Edinburgh Waverley. Railtrack's intent is to create a relaxing environment, it

says in the company's Network Management Statement 1996-97 (page 42). If it also brings more passengers to the railway, who can complain? What indeed, are the alternatives?

Yours faithfully, JOHN GLOVER, 3 Northcliffe Close, Worcester Park, Surrey.

Track record less than promising

From Mr Paul Twyman Sir, Your City Diary (December 12) is quite right to draw attention to Raultrack's plans to close Blackfriars station and to cust doubt on their promises to keep disruption to

A small but significant insight into Railtrack's attitude is given by their performance on the Kent Coast Line to Ramsgate. Most of us have stopped travelling to Victoria by train at weekends because of track works which, virtually every weekend, cause considerable inconvenience and an increase in journey time from 12 hours to almost three hours.

from September to April. Railtrack, who, incidentally, held up the introduction of new rolling stock on this line for nearly two years, seem to care little for the poor passengers. The operating companies appear powerless to influence them. So more power to the Corporation of

Yours faithfully, PAUL TWYMAN, Thrift House, Minnis Road, Birchington on Sea, Kent.

Prospects for UK inflation in 1998

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick Sir, Janet Bush in her column (December 10) notes that imports typically represent a fifth of UK consumer spending, and also points out that the strength of sterling has made these imports cheaper. She also sug-gests that there is little threat of the current underlying inflation, rate (2.8 per cent in the year to November 30) accelerating in 1998. I am not sure she is correct to be so sanguine.

The trade weighted index of sterling rose 13 per cent between November 1996 and November 1997. On the basis that this should have made some fifth of the goods and services purchased by consumers some 13 per cent cheaper, then inflation may well be up to 2.6 per cent (ie 13 per cent x 1s) lower than it would have been had sterling remained static over the last year. It is unlikely that the inflation rate in the year to Novem-

ber 30, 1998 will be flattered by any further rise in sterling, with the result that (other things remaining equal) inflation could jump to around 5 per cent by November 1998. A fall in the sterling exchange over the next year, as opposed to the mere absence of the sterling appreciation effect currently enjoyed, could push that 5 per cent even higher.

On this basis, it seems inevitable that the Bank will have to raise interest rates in the new year. Meanwhile our eco-nomic model, which is based on the economic growth forecasts and unemployment calculation parameters set out in the Treasury's 1997 Pre-Bud-get Report, suggests that un-employment will start going up in the third quarter of 1998. Yours faithfully, M. C. FITZPATRICK, Chantrey Vellacott,

10-12 Russell Square, WCI.

Max factor

GIVEN the length of Geoffrey Robinson's career — both as a politician and as a businessman — one would have thought he would have learnt how to avoid danger. However, many in the City have long had concerns about the Paymaster General's associations with the late Robert Maxwell And what few followers of the Orion Trust affair have noticed is the role of a certain

A quick look at the annual report of TransTec, the company that Robin-



"What's prompted you to think

joined the Government, shows that Codrington has been the group's company secretary for a couple of years. But what did he do prior to that? Well, I can reveal that he was actually company secretary to Maxwell Communication Corporation and scores of private companies controled by the publishing tycoon prior to his death in 1991.

Of course the fact that Codrington was at the centre of the Maxwell empire does not imply that he knew anything about the disappearance of hundreds of millions of pounds of pensioners' money. And I am sure that the Paymaster General questioned him closely before making the appointment.

Mutual friend

IF THE embattled Paymaster General is looking for friends, he may not find many in the building society world. Some were miffed by remarks made by Robinson in a Commons building

society debate in June: Commenting on the long-term effects of conversions on customers, the minister said that the experience to date had not been discouraging". Such assurances were not music to the ears of building society bosses who



both borrowers and savers. Adding insult to injury, Robinson claimed that Abbey National, the first society to convert, had "largely maintained its customer profile". Building society folk argued that, although Abbeynever calls itself a bank, it behaves like one. In the latest round of mortgage rate rises, Abbey was the first to put up its rates.

Festive tidings

FURTHER to my item yesterday about the strange similarity between last year's advert for Nabarro Nathanson and this year's for Dresdner RCM Global Investors, I note the hard-edged Christmas messbelieve that mutuality is better for age that the lawyers are putting out on compliance.

the Internet. If you log on to the Nabarro Web site, the first thing you see is "Season's greetings to you all" closely followed by the jolly message "Proposed law to punish thieves of company secrets."

Bitter news

EVEN more jolity is to be had at St Martin's Le Grand, the City headquarters of Nomura International. which held its Christmas party on Monday. But the seasonal mood was dampened by some news from Prague. The Czech Government had blocked the merger of Radegast, a brewer controlled by Nomura, with rival Pizensky Prazdroj. It seems that a certain British brewer had raised some objections.

This brewer happened to be the same one that later in the day told Nomura it was declining an offer from the Japanese group for its pubs and selling them to Bankers Trust. I assume that Nomura will not be toasting the new year with any Bass beers.

☐ SO DESPERATE was the Prudential to admit responsibility for its wrongdoing yesterday, that it issued a response to the latest regulatory flagellation before the statement from the Financial Services Authority, the new super-regulator, came out. Such efficiency in saying sorry has to be admired in a company which, the FSA claims. had a "cultural disposition against

Catcall

PROOF positive of the chasm within the Tory party is the fact that Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, has split with colleagues and leapt to Tony Blair's defence. On what issue? Single mothers? EMU? Geoffrey Robinson? No. Humphrey the cat. According to Clarke, the Blairs were quite right to kick Humphrey out of Downing Street as she (the car's sex was a wellkept secret) had "three fleas for every hair and was never let into No 10 or

JASON NISSÉ



Humphrey the cat "had three fleas for every hair



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Hot spots on the jazz shelf

Clive Davis

picks the best of the year's jazz books

since this is the time of year for the crystal ball, I confidently predict that teopaths will see an increase in shoulder strains among jazz lovers. The reason? Many of them will have spent several weeks grappling with the thousand-plus pages of Robert Gottlieb's monumental anthology. Reading Jazz (Bloomsbury, £20).

Gordieb, who was at the helm of The New Yorker in the era BT (Before Tina), may not seem the obvious choice for a collection of this kind. But he perhaps benefits from a degree of objectivity lacking in those who have fought and refought so many of the jazz world's civil wars.

The collection is divided into autobiography, reportage and criticism. It is only proper that the opening pages should be reserved for Jelly Roll Morton who, with the help of folklorist Alan Lomax, produced one of the most vivid of American

autobiographies.
The bleak underside is never far away. Gottlieb has dipped into Art Pepper's searing memoir Straight Life, Hampton Hawes's Raise Up Off Me and Anita O'Day's equally candid account of drug addiction in High Times.

Hard Times. So many record dates, so much carousing can dull the reader's senses after a while. Gottlieb perhaps fails to sustain as measured a balance between the serious and the humorous as Bill Crow managed in his garrulous pot pourri. Jazz Anecdotes, published by Oxford in 1990.

Still, the two latter sections are a delight. Gene Lees can always be relied upon to give a perceptive insider's view. And Gottlieb makes space for our own Max Harrison. Humphrey Lyttelton and Benny Green. The latter's essay on Bix Beiderbecke is taken from his book The Reluctant Art, the pithiest overview of jazz. history I have ever come

Finally, it is good to see that Gottlieb does not shy away from introducing dissident voices. Philip Larkin's choleric introduction to All What Jazz remains a classic denunciation of Modernism in all its areas

Musicians themselves. suspect, will turn first of all to the very jast contribution producer Orrin Keepnew's stinging attack on critics.

wo titles compete for the coffee-table market this Christmas. Mervyn Cooke, a music lecturer at Nottingham University, takes a painstaking month-by-month approach in The Chronicle of Jazz (Thames and Hudson, £24.95). More rigorous editing might have helped, but the book contains many evocative illustrations and incisive capsule accounts

Roy Carr's A Century of Jazz (Hamlyn, E25) covers the same ground rather more stylishly. Assembled by a forceful team of writers, it condenses the journey from New Orleans to Acid Jazz into a series of pungent essays, adding unexpected detours into such esoterica as cowboy Bob Wills's western swing.

Carr and his colleagues sensibly refrain from making sweeping assertions about the future. In the introduction to Singing Jazz: The Singers and Their Styles (Blandford, £(4.99). Bruce Crowther and Mike Pinfold recall that when they published a previous study of the vocalist's art a decade ago they found them-selves agreeing with Betty Carter's melancholy comment: "After me, there are no more

jazz singers."

They could not have been more wrong. In fact the generation of singers who have emerged since then tend to display more individuality than the highly publicised instrumentalists. Singing Jazz picks a thoughtful path through past and present.

Crowther and Pinfold do not gloss over the problems - not least the dearth of worthwhile new material. The malaise is evoked by that witty singersongwriter Dave Frishberg, composer of the Cole Porterish

Peel Me A Grape. "It doesn't seem plausible to me that the American popular song could have evolved from Victor Herbert through Jerome Kern through Irving Berlin through George Gersh-win through Cole Porter through Johnny Mercer through Harold Arlen through Frank Loesser through Alan Jay Lerner, and wind up with Neil Diamond!





Then and now: Bruce Forsyth and Anthea Redfern gave us The Generation Game for Christmas Day 1971; Julian Clary and the "pretty policemen" are on BBC2 this Sunday

Haunted by ghost of Christmas past

Tis the season to watch telly, but as W. Stephen Gilbert discovers, our Yuletide tastes have changed dramatically in the past 25 years

First things first. In terrestrial transmission alone, there is today three times as much television as there was a quarter-century ago. Channels 4 and 5 are in play and all but the BBC (News 24 aside) transmit round the clock. Yet the most striking contrast between the schedules is the decline of programming related to the conventional focus of the festivities, that is to say to anything specifically religious. Typically of the era, there were II church services on television in the 1974 holiday fortprogrammes was 31, of which more than half were on ITV. This year there are six services and another ten items of a religious thrust, ITV's contribution numbering just five, C4 being entirely secular.

by a "personality" talking to the camera and supported by a studio Another feature in retreat is what we might call "proper" music. Christaudience: theme nights pulling together programmes and movies from mas 1974 mustered 15 concerts, relays of opera and ballet performances and many sources - they are still not even in-house productions, including new-minted. The BBC is re-running a BBC1's The Yeoman of the Guard in peak time on New Year's Day and Granada's Trial By Jury on Christmas Eve. ITV also carried two number of seasonal special editions 1970s - The Likely Lads, Steptoe and concerts in its Sunday tea-time Aquarius slot and (unthinkable now) and, with the first two originating in dipitous to compare the Christmas a specially arranged classical concert formight's programming of that year on Christmas night. BBCI had its own concert on Christmas Eve and a

big gala from Sadler's Wells three

nights later.
Fast forward to today and Gilbert and Sullivan are notably absent. Indeed, with the exception of the Royal Ballet School's Peter and the Wolf to keep children occupied while the turkey is carved, BBCI has no music to offer; ITV has none at all. The music-lover must resort to the other channels where, with the exceptions of C4's recording of English National Opera's The Damnation of Faust on Christmas night and Royal Ballet, all musical items are banished out of peak time. Television styles wax and wane

with the years. In the 1970s, sitcoms and games shows were at their peak and variety was still popular, so the seasonal editions of these forms proliferated. Bruce Forsyth and the Generation Game was BBCl's banker and no fewer than three editions went out around Christmas. Dick Emery, Les Dawson, Tommy Cooper, David Nixon, Mike Yarwood, Norman Wisdom, Ken Dodd, Petula Clark, Shirley Bassey, Cilla Black, Val Doonican, Basil Brush, Sooty . . . all these and more had Yule draped around them. The Christmas specials best remembered from these

years were those of Morecambe and

Wise but as luck would have it the boys skipped 1974, instead entrusting Michael Parkinson to front a bunch of clips from their previous Christmas shows. Such repackaging was then a novelty.

Contemporary television has fewer such stars or such games. The Generation Game, now the creature of Jim Davidson, enjoys a single seasonal run-out as does Forsyth's newer vehicle The Price is Right. Freddie Starr, Brian Conley and Dame Edna Everage get the puttinmodern stars are much less stagederived than those of their predecessors and draw much more on the kind of packaging that TV has made its own. Harry Enfield and Christmas Chums, Jack Dee's Sunday Service and The Mrs Merton Christmas Show are well-tried formats with a sprig of holly in one corner, rather than the push-the-boat-out variety bills of heretofore.

Still, if anyone can be dubbed old Brucie's successor as a BBC icon for all seasons, it could just be Julian Clary whose blissfully tacky All Rise For...goes out on two successive nights, admittedly on BBC2 where, if they bump into it by mistake, your inlaws can be persuaded to blame themselves for straying into exotic

lands. The Spice Girls, meanwhile, may be losing their savour even as I write but Christmas schedulers hope that the flavour will linger at least until the tree is undressed, and so offer three bites at this particular cherry. Spice Up Your Christmas is the perhaps imploring title of ITV's version. version.
The Oscar Wilde anniversary has

spurred a new dramatisation of his story The Canterville Ghost with Ian Richardson and Donald Sinden. Oddly enough, 1974 had its own version (David Niven and Flora Robson among the cast). But the Christmas ghost story tradition has faded. A generation ago, M.R. James was the favoured source for a drama to unsettle satisfyingly. The BBC, still uncertain of the role of costume dramatisation in 1990s television, has gone back to Wilkie Collins for a twoparter this time.

Other stalwarts no longer serve at all. Ever since the 1940s there was always a circus for cameras to relay to excited children viewing over Christmas — Billy Smart's, Chipperfield's and Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey in 1974 - but this year there is only the circus movie, a Jimmy Stewart season. The ice show and the magic show have gone the same way.

There is generally much less drama and, within that, much less seasonal drama than in previous times, but many dozens more movies nowadays, including more recent roadshow features. In 1974 peak-time movies on Christmas Day featured John Wayne - in True Grit on BBCl, in The Undefeated on ITV. This year's equivalents, The Mask and Home Alone 2, may be no nearer to great art than the Wayne pair, but somehow they seem rather closer to the notion of Christmas which the schedulers have evolved — a secular family gathering at which the kids wield the remote control.

Beijing

OPERA: After Aida at the Pyramids, here comes Turnindot in the Forbidden City of Beijing. Eight open-air performances of Puccini's Chinese" masterpiece will take place next September in the square in front of Beijing's 18th-century palace. The £10 million production, based on a one staged this year at the Maggio Musicale in Florence, is by the top Chinese film director Zhang Yimou and is conducted by Zubin Mehta. Around 350 performers from Florence will take part, along with 600 local performers and technicians. Booking and further information on http://www.turandot-on-

HEATTE: Another screen success is to be transferred to the stage. Brassed Off, the heartwarming British film about a colliery brass band that decides to play on after the closure of its pit. will be staged at the Crucible in Sheffield next March. Mark Herman's screenplay will be adapted for the theatre by Paul Allen, and a real brass band will be playing for the shows.

DANCE: A Japanese ballerina who has spent the past two decades as a principal dancer with Scottish Ballet has been awarded an honorary OBE by Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, on behalf of the Queen. Noriko Ohara, who joined Scottish Ballet in 1976, was amazed by the honour: "I never dreamt I would receive such an award. I deeply appreciate Scotland's acceptance of my work -- and

MUSIC: Does the "man

with the golden flute" also

have a golden baton? The London Mozart Players will soon find out: James Galway has been appointed as the orchestra's principal guest conductor. The former icst flate of the Berlin Philharmonic, who has since become one of the bestknown classical instrumentalists in the world, will take up his new role in 1999. He will also be the soloist at the orchestra's 50th anniversary concert in the Festival Hall in February 1999. The Belfast-born appointment as "one of the most pleasantly surprising

Film: Robert Redford's Sundance Festival, the fiercely competitive launch-pad for independent movies, will have a British premiere again this year. The Sea Change, from the Winchester Films team that made Shooting Fish, will be shown at the Utah jamboree next month. In earlier years Sundance gave America its first sight of Four Weddings and a Funeral and The Full

events in my career".

POP: Rich voice of uncomplicated folk; low-key end to a soulful 14-month tour; blues tribute from the next generation

Unplugged and unvarnished

ather round the Aga, children, and I will tell

you a Christmas story.
Long, long ago, the BBC
beheld that the family habitually
gathered round the box to celebrate

Christmas. And it saw that this was

good, or at least good for festooning

the BBC itself with fairy lights that

might shine encouragingly on the

latest application for an increase in the price of the licence. And lo, the

Corporation created the Christmas

special, a sort of extended (or distend-

ed) edition of a popular programme and, along with its store of movie premieres, it put them all in a package and called it the Christmas

Seeing the BBC's star rise and

knowing that the advertisers are

comparatively uninterested in Christ-

mas because the spending rush is over by then, the wise men of ITV (in

those far off days the BBC's only

rivals) quoth, in their strange Old

Testament fashion, "stuff this for a

lark". And they took rather less trouble over their Christmas sched-

ule than did the BBC. And that,

children, is why the BBC spends the

days between Christmas and Janu-

This Christmas, for reasons com-plex, the schedules want for a little

generosity. Repeats are the order of

the day and however you package them — compilations of clips linked

of sitcoms first shown in the mid-

Son, Sykes, Are You Being Served? -

1974, it seemed instructively seren-

espite the praise heaped on Beth Orton's album. Trailer Park, which has sold 60,000 copies in Britain since it was released in October 1996, there is something about its danceinfluenced production that seems rather cold and lacking in emotion. Her new Best Bit EP is a more traditional evocation of the folk-singer's art, and sounds instantly more engaging. But it is when she performs on stage that her songs truly come to life.

For one thing, Orton has a quiet, but very keenly felt rapport with her audience. It was her 27th birthday when she played at Shepherds Bush on Sunday, and although no mention was made of this, the more vocal members of the capacity crowd spontaneously sang her a verse of Happy Birthday. A thin, lanky figure dressed in a spangly gold dress and calf-length boots, Orton looked more like the girl next door in a party frock than a pop star. Her seven-piece band were a similarly sober bunch, with acoustic instruments, including violin and cello, outnumbering the electric, and unaided by any turntable, sampling or other

techno-friendly effects whatsoever. The net result of a presentation that was less varnished

Beth Orton Shepherds Bush Empire

than most unplugged sessions these days was to focus attention squarely on Orton's voice. There was a haunting, autumnal richness to her tone in Touch Me With Your Love and Tangent, songs which she sang in the British folk tradition of artists such as Nick Drake and Jacqui McShee of Pentangle, while the rootsier Skimming Stone echoed the southern American style of Bobbie Gentry.

Along with favourites including She Calls My Name, Sugar Boy, Someone's Daughter and her poignant version of Ronnie Spector's I Wish I Never Saw The Sunshine, the set included a smattering of new songs, all put across with an uncomplicated honesty that has gone out of fashion among today's pop artists. While her connections have

marked her out as a travelling companion of the techno crowd, Orton's live show firmly took us back to an era when soul counted for more than the sum of the beats.

Give the hat a rest

amiroquai frontman Ja-son Kay had better book himself one hell of a holiday this Christmas. At a charity concert in the tempo-rary arena erected beside Battersea Power Station, the skinny singer seemed utterly exhausted. The gig, which marked the end of a 14-month tour to promote Travelling Without Moving, Jamiro-quai's multimillion selling third album, was at times as low-key as an impromptu

rehearsal.

It didn't help that the local council had imposed noise restrictions so severe that the songs sounded as though they were being broadcast by a big ghetto blaster at the front of the barn-like auditorium. The real problem, however, was Kay. Usually. his sparky personality and non-stop dance routines are the focus for the show. On Sunday night Kay could scarcely summon the

energy to stay standing. Nevertheless the fashionable, but not too trendy, 6.000strong crowd clearly enjoyed Jamiroquai's slick'n soulful R&B. A three-piece brass section, drummer, guitarist, keyboard player and DJ made up a competent backing band, which managed to sustain a groove throughout a series of disappointingly down-tempo album tracks and rather lacklustre renditions of former DAVID SINCLAIR singles such as Space Cowboy and Too Young To Die.



Tired and unemotional: Jamiroquai frontman Jason Kay

Jamiroquai Battersea -

The crowd's first chance to dance, during an infectiously funky Cosmic Girl, sadly didn't last long. Just as fans in the seated area at the rear of the hall had got up on their feet. Kay introduced digeridoo player Wallis Buchanan, before vanishing to leave the band to embark on a tenminute instrumental. Only when Nigerian percussionist Sola Akingbola appeared did the singer seem to lose himself in the music. As Akingbola launched into a calypso-fla-voured bongo solo, Kay did a short, Spanish-style dance,

then flipped into a handstand to "walk" across the stage.
Stripped of its usual

armoury of up-tempo tunes,

Jamiroquai had more in common with early Eighties George Benson than with either the acid jazz scene, from which the band initially emerged, or Motown acts such as Stevie Wonder, with whom Kay is frequently compared.
"I can't wait to party after the show tonight," the singer revealed midway through the set. "I'm going to have such a wild time that you definitely won't want to see me at six in the morning." Few members of the audience believed Kay would stay awake that long.

LISA VERRICO

The son shines on father's day

t was a difficult task. Luther Allison's death earlier this year robbed the blues world of one of its most innovative and gifted stars. Now, in this tribute evening, his son Bernard had to pay due respect to his father's obvious talents while proving himself to be a major player in his own right. To add to his problems, he arrived at the gig suffering from jetlag after an eight-hour flight from Martinique and without his keyboard player, who had decided that morning to leave the band -reducing then to a trio of Allison on lead guitar, Kim Yarborough on bass and Jeff Boudrait on drums.

That he was able to over-come all these difficulties with style, flair and a big measure musical ability says much for this 32-year-old Chicagoborn musician now resident in Paris.

With a fluency on the guitar and a strong voice just this side of harshness, he opened with some numbers from his new album, Born With The Blues, the most effective of which was the wry Aaron Burton-penned Garbage Man which gave Allison a chance to display one of his party pieces - a solo of vocallike guitar runs which en-abled him to "talk" to the

audience and trade phrases, rather than licks, with Yarbor-

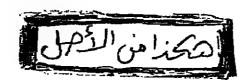
ough.

But once the party games were over Allison, who had paid his dues by playing in blues singer Koko Taylor's backing band, strapped on one of his father's guitars and got down to some serious slide guitar work. A strong and vibrant reading of Mud dy Water's I Can't Be Satisfied was followed by 20 impassioned The Sky Is Crying, with Allison bringing a menacing and potent feel to this Elmore James classic.

Following in his father's flamboyant footsteps he enlivened his next solo by stepping off stage to wander through the audience, buttonhole a few fans, stop for a sip of beer at the bar and then walk upstairs, all without missing a

The gig ended with the warhorse Dust My Broom which, even if it didn't stretch Allison too much, proved that the future of the blues - and of the Allison name — was in safe hands. Dad would have been proud.

JOHN CLARKE





Beijing Thank you, now back to obscurity back to obscurity

THERE can be few causes more lost than the operas of Havergal Brian, the English composer who died 25 years ago leaving a vast output of largely unperformed works.

Although some musicians have made the case for the oldfogeyish romanticism of his 32 symphonies, it seems that nothing can be said in favour of his five operas: certainly the Havergal Brian Society did not advance any cause by horsening this world pre-

miere concert performance of Apart from his early work

The Tigers, Brian's operas were all written between 1949 and 1957. All take big subjects better deaft with by other composers. The Centi was preceded by Turandot and followed by Faust and Agamemnon. As both Goldschmidt and Ginastera have shown, Shelley's tragedy of the teenage Beatrice Cenci. condemned by Church and State for couniving at the murder of her rapist father, makes strong operatic material, but Brian misses every dramatic opportunity.

indeed, the work's welcome brevity - the score lasts just under two hours - means that vital scenes in Shelley, often the most harrowing, are omitted altogether. Worse still, Shelley's lines are mangled unpoetically by Brian's insensitive word-setting; those that are audible come across in



with several syllables on a single pitch. Clumsy biofares are the closest Brian comes to evoking the golden back-ground of Renaissance Rome that any worthwhite composer. would have painted into the orchestration. From the start of the largering contracts of the 15-minute overture, tempos are steady and instrumen-tal colour dull

The music blossoms briefly at Beatrice's Farewell, but too late for the work to make any impact. Helen Field sang the role with as much conviction as possible, but Stuart Kale's words as Cardinal Camillo were lost under the thick orchestration. David Wilson-Johnson got most of Caunt Cenci's unpleasantness across and Inga Jonsdottir caught the serenity of his wife Lucretia, a role stally too low for her smallish mezzo. Justin Lavender and Jeffrey Carl made

good contributions. All had to work hard under James Kelleher's over-enthusiastic baton, even when the Millennium Sinfonia's strings. were a little soft-grained. London's musical life depends on performances of rarries, but this was one of the year's musical yawns.

JOHN ALLISON

Russian revelation

KENT NAGANO has conducted opera in Manchester before, notably in concert versions of Bluebeard's Castle and Billy Budd. Unlike its counterpart at Lyon Opera, however, the audience in the Bridgewater Hall has not had the opportunity to observe him at work in the romantic area at the centre of the repertoire. So now, after his performances of Toscz with the Halle Orthestra and Choir and soloists from the European Opera Centre, he must be seen in a ...

new light. It is true that Towns is not the most difficult score to conduct or to play. Even so, the style and the authority of his interpretation and the quality of the orchestral sound under his direction were a revelation. It is said that Nagano lacks passion, which might be true in some cases, but any more of first of the three Toscz performances would have been excessive. A conductor has to apply a fairly rigorous economy in a work of this length, as he certainly did; he also made

sure of maximising the effect at the most stressful points. Besides, with a Tosca like Lada Birlucov - the outstanding member of a cast drawn almost exclusively from Russia and Eastern Europe there was little chance of anything but a passionate performance. She might have

regard for the fine detail but she has a most voluptuous voice, a vehement tempera ment and a strikingly hand some appearance. If the Cavaradossi, Viktor Afanasenko, is a less interesting prospect it is not because his vocal resources are unimpressive but because, at the age of nearly 40, he is surely rather too old for this kind of exercise

and too set in his ways. As a

Scarpia actually nine years

younger, the awesomely dark-toned Bulgarian baritone Nikolal Dobrev gave much

the more mature perfor-Taking advantage of the concerthall conditions, Nagacustom of positioning his principal singers towards the back of the platform and deployed them instead in a straight line at the front. While he could usefully have sent his Tosca and his Cavaradossi further back at those moments where they are meant to be heard offstage, the general quality of the balance he secured must surely have persuaded him to

stay with that kind of forms

tion in the future. GERALD LARNER Richard Cork finds some out-of-the-ordinary Christmas books for discerning art lovers

A gallery under the tree

unlikely place to find terpiece. But in 15th-century Italy some of the most outstanding artists were commissioned to execute paintings on these richly decorated pieces of wedding furniture. They were called cassoni, and Botticelli, Pesellino and Uccello all produced captivating images on

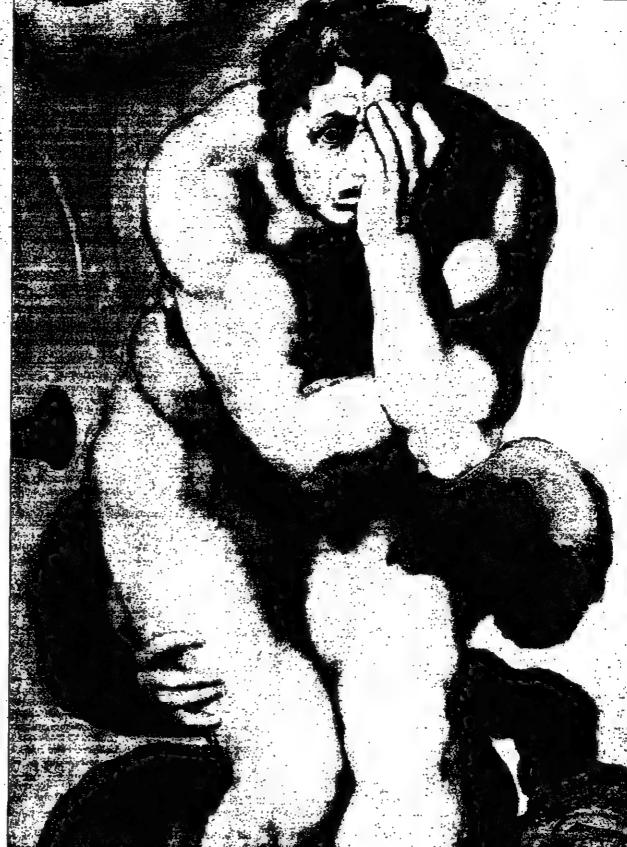
Now, for the first time, Graham Hughes has written a scholarly and substantial history of Renaissance Casson (Art Books International, £351. He shows how classical mythology and historical romance were fused with everyday quattrocento life to give these paintings their irresistible appeal.

Italian art provides the focus for several groundbreaking new art books. Andrea dei Verrocchio tends to be re-membered primarily as the teacher of Leonardo da Vinci, but he was an impressive sculptor in his own right, and Andrew Butterfield has done him justice in a pioneering study (Yale, £45). Verrocchio's range was remarkable, en-compassing the playful charms of Putto with a Dolphin as well as the military grandeur of the great Colleon monument in Venice. He deserves to be more widely celebrated.

Martin Kemp reminds us, in his stimulating Behind the Picture Art and Brideset in the Italian Renaissance (Yale, £25), that Verrocchio often had to fight for his payments. The Mercanzia guild of Florence never paid the final instalments of Verrocchio's fee for an outstanding bronze group of Christ and St Thomas. In the end, he was forced to petition the Florentine rovernment.

Kemp shows that even Michelangelo had financial prob-lems with his patrons in the Vatican. The Pope's behaviour was shameful. He had every reason to be grateful, not only for the Sistine ceiling but for the later, titunic Last Judgment on the chapel's altar wall. Executed in 1534, this prodigious fresco has recently been cleaned. A multitude of powerful details, previously obscured by dirt and candlesmoke, are illustrated with stunning clarity in Michelan-geio: the Last Judgment (Abrams, £49.95). The result is a revelation, with 150 colour reproductions enabling us to see the painting far better than we can in the chapel itself.

Another Renaissance painting to benefit from cleaning, Holbein's The Ambassadors. is scrutinised by Oskar Batschmann and Pascal Griener in Hans Holbein (Reaktion, £40). Their lucid text provides an ideal accompaniment to the National Gallery's current exhibition of The Ambassadors. They set the painting securely in the context of Holbein's career. So



much has been lost, including his great Thomas More family group and the mural of Henry VIII's dynasty in Whitehall Palace, but the authors are still able to show how Holbein. proceeded from youthful apprenticeship in Augsburg to European eminence at the

Although Correggio was Holbein's near-contemporary, the two painters could hardly have been more contrasted, Working in northern Italy, at a

remove from the cultural dynamism of Florence and Rome, Correggio nevertheless history. enjoyed a flourishing career. Visitors to Parma are still astounded by the overwhelming fresco decorations be executed there, above all in his soaring and eestatic Assumption of the Virgin in the cupola of the cathedral. Writing a perceptive, deeply researched

and comprehensive study of Correggio's achievement (Yale, £45), David Ekserdjian

has made a major contribution to Renaissance art

Even the most celebrated Italian artists are sometimes strangely neglected by writers. Bernini, whose fame as a Barroque sculptor extended far beyond his base in Rome, has long needed an up-to-date book on his multi-faceted career. Now Charles Avery has provided it. His Bernini: Genius of the Baroque (Thames & Hudson, £45) is a

delight. Avery admits that Bernini the man was capable of alarming cruelty, especially towards his errant brother and mistress. But his sculpture remains sublime. Whether carving a boisterous bust of

Borghese, or fashioning the colossal bronze Baldacchino in St Peter's Basilica, Bernini was supreme.

the plump Cardinal Scipione

Guido Renl, who once enjoyed a reputation almost as towering as Bernini's, later LONDON CONCERTS: A Goehr premiere; Italianate Russians; and two exciting chamber ensembles

no longer automatically derided for his weeping penitents with their doleful, upturned eyes. Reni's mastery of Baroque painting is acknowledged once more, and Richard E. Spear provides a compelling analysis of his complex character in The "Divine" Guido (Yale, £40). Apparently a virgin, possibly homosexual and definitely a hopeless gambler, Reni is fascinating. Spear has no qualms about speculating, and brings his secretive subject back to life.

Another extraordinary 17thcentury Italian, the antiquary and natural scientist Cassiano dal Pozzo, is celebrated in a handsome new volume. An insatiable collector, he commissioned more than 7,000 drawings documenting the late Renaissance world. Most are preserved in the Royal Collection at Windsor, and the full extent of his so-called "Paper Museum" is now being

The latest instalment, by David Freedberg and Enrico watercolours and gouaches of Citrus Fruit (Harvey Miller, £150). The authors' scholarship is impressive, and the glowing images have an immediate, sumptuous appeal.

aul Delaroche was the 19th-century artist who, confronted by the advent of photog raphy, made the apocalyptic declaration that "from today, painting is dead". But he went on to achieve enormous fame as a painter, and made use of the camera in his later pic tures. Although forgotten for many decades, his Execution of Lady Jane Grey is now a visitors' favourite at the National Gallery. And Stephen Bann's Paul Delaroche: History Painted (Reaktion, £40) makes impressive amends for

the long years of neglect.
The classical ideals worshipped by Delaroche began to be usurped soon after his death in 1856. Young artists looked far beyond Europe for stimulus, and they discovered rich inspiration in Oceanic art.

In the first comprehensive study for more than 30 years, the painting, sculpture and architecture of Polynesia, Micropesia and Melanesia is discussed with authority (Abrams, £150). Headed by Douglas Newton, a team of scholars reveals the brazen often brilliantly coloured impact of the images made by these resourceful islanders. Among their many beguil-

ing achievements, body painting is perhaps the most direct form of self-expression. And Karl Groning's Decorated Skin: A World Survey of Body Art (Thames & Hudson, £45) reveals just how fundamental the body-decorating impulse really is, tracing it from Stone-Age times through to the tattooing and flesh-

GREAT BRITISH HOPES - -

Rising stars in the arts firmament ED McCARDIE

Age: Just 30.

Profession: Publications of ficer for the further education unit in Stirling. Oh, and

The writing is taking off: Last month he won £9,000 to fund writing a serial which, in competition with five other under-30s, he pitched to a scary audience of hard-eyed industry pros at the Drama Forum, the first of an intended annual conference on television drama.



How did he hear about this lion's den of an opportunity? " took a week off work and went to an event called Movie Matters, which is held in Scotland each year for people like myself who have done one or two things and are hoping to make a career out of it. I was told about this pitch of sudden death two days before the deadline.

What will the money enable him to do with his project, Thicker Than Water? "Properly research and develop the scripts."

What was he up to before this break? He started writing two years ago "after a number of years of procrastination", while working in Poland for a British charity. He was then given support by the Scottish Film Production Fund to write a short film. The resulting piece, Hard Nut: A Love Story, was released as "warm-up" to the feature Shooting Fish. It will also be on Channel 4 in January, and won him a Bafta nomination as best new writer. "Obviously than's quite good currency for someone in my position. It's hard to overstate the importance of something getting made, even if it's only six or seven minutes long, when you're trying to make a breakthrough. For 18 months it's been my encouragement to go on.

Any literary beroes? "I suppose when I was young I liked the Herningway thing, but I'm not sure how much of that was his life and how much his writing. Since I've decided to be a serious writer, it's more someone like Milan Kundera because of the fabulous structure of his work. When I think I'm ready, I'd like to tackle European themes and further afield. He now reads worldwide fiction. These people play by totally different rules to ours. They're not hampered by the parameters that we define for ourselves here."

W. STEPHEN GILBERT

past influences

THE final instalment of the London Sinfonietta's triple 30th-birthday celebration featured a new work by Alexander Goehr set in a tightly constructed programme that provided an illuminating conext. Given that Goehr's father, the conductor Walter Goehr, was a pupil of Schoenberg, it made sense to open with a piece by the Second Viennese master that established one of the pillars of the young composer's musical upbringing.
The Three Pieces for Cham-

ber Orchestra (1910) last a total of three minutes and recall another Schoenberg pupil, Webern, in their fastidious micro-textures. Oliver Knussen, having conducted a finely observed performance. sensed that we had had insufficient time to adjust to their miniature scale, and played them through again.

The new Goehr work, Idees Fixes, subtitled "Sonata for 13", is a 17-minute piece in one continuous movement. Unified by three ubiquitous motifs and a pleasingly symmetrical structure, it displays the economic processes and austere language characteristic of the composer. Indeed, Goehr speaks of a constraint he imposed on himself: a strict, non-decorative application of variation form, following a hint from Brahms (himself an early influence on

The hard-edged wind sonorities of Stravinsky were never far away, however, and all these influences, plus that of Messiaen, were evident too in



Goehr's Little Symphony (1963), written in memory of his father. The work has its severe aspects -- notably in the second-movement variations on a chorale seem to recall the 19th-century tradition of Brahms refracted through Berg as well as Schoenberg and Stravinsky. From the same period we heard also Stravinsky's Move-

ments (1958-59), another economically constructed — in this case serial — work. After a delicately poised performance of this mini-concerto for piano (Peter Serkin) and chamber orchestra, Knussen asked, more diffidently this time: Would you mind hearing that again?" Second time round, one noticed not just the crisp, laconic gestures but also the unifying string lines and even

community harmonies.

The Berlin-born Stefan Wolpe, whose career embraced-Dadaism, Yiddish text-setting and belop, composed niany individual works worth investigating but the Piece for Piano and 16 Instruments is not one of the more rewarding. Despite the eloquent advocacy of the Sinformetta. Knussen and Serkin, it is difficult to imagine that the UK premiere of this sterile 1962 piece will do much to advance Wolpe's cause.

> BARRY MILLINGTON

Composer revisits Moscow seen from the south

LAST Sunday night's concert of an all-Russian programme by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Daniele Gatti took a fresh look at familiar music, John Allison writes. All three of the fea-



play them in a completely traditional way. It may have been his Italian temperament, but it was beauty of line that seemed to be the uppermost concern here, and these per-

case partly bequeathed to Russian composers by their Italian counterparts.

As it is already an arrangement, there is more room for freedom in the orchestral version of Pictures at an Exhibition than in Mussorgsky's piano original. Gatti brought a fresh car for

Richly rewarding rarities

IT WOULD take more space than is available here to explain why they are called the Fibonacci Sequence, Barry Millington writes. But somehow the name — inventive and stylish — captures the essence of Kathron Sturrock's excellent ensemble. It is a Protean group, con-

sky, Mussorgsky and Prokofiev - received idiomat-

ic treatment. But Gatti is too

sisting of more than a dozen individuals who come together in various formations to play repertoire both mainstream and unfamiliar, with the emphasis decidedly on the latter. Monday's programme was typically innovative and wide ranging, yet also coherent, with three works from eastern European composers (Martinu, Dohnányi and Ippolitov-Ivanov), two from French (Poulenc and Ravel) and Mozart's Horn Quintet in

The Trio for oboe, bassoon and piano by Poulenc was quintessential Fibonacci witty, pungent, capricious and the performance by Christopher O'Neal, Richard Skinner and Kathron Sturrock was needle-sharp. The Mozart gave horn player Stephen Stirling a chance to shine with



admirable support from richly textured lower strings.

Ravel's Introduction and Allegro for harp, flute and string quartet offered harpist Gillian Tingay the starring role, though she too was given a sensitive backdrop. Martinu's resourceful Trio for flute, cello and piano was well worth unearthing offering each player opportunities for soulful expressiveness. But it was Dohnanyi's Sextet that rather stole the show. Irredeemably romantic. Dohnanyi's music both soothes the senses and commands the attention. The precipitous finale, for example, suddenly erupts, with no warning, in a Viennese waltz - a moment relished by the ensemble, who whirled round

the ballroom with abandon. Virtuosity was very much the watchword, too, for the recital the following night by

the Safri Duo. These young Danish percussionists gave an enthralling display, undeniably impressive even if the aesthetic value of all but one item was questionable. Pieces of Wood and Nagova

Marimbas were typical Steve Reich in that they elevated metrical complexity over all other criteria. Wayne Siegel's 42nd Street Rondo gave the players more improvisational freedom, but is scarcely more interesting. The Duo brought home the horrendous rhythmical intricacies of Andy Pape's CaDance 42 by getting half the audience to clap groups of four beats against the other half's five. Undoubtedly a tour de force, but again of doubtful artistic merit.

Transcriptions of a Bach Prelude and Ravel's Pavane supplied the ravishing sonorities lacking elsewhere, though the former was a travesty of the original in every respect. Fireplay by "Fuzzy" — a composer I had not previously encountered - was another circus act, leaving Jacob Ter Veldhuis's Goldrush alone to combine rhythmic vigour with

chestration sounded rather more like Respiehi than Raw el, and he drew expansive, sonorous playing from the RPO. The opening Prome-nade had broad sweep, and the Old Castle came across as a delicately perfumed scene. Just occasionally the sound

was too soft-grained. The progress of the old cart in Bydlo was a little light, and some of grotesque details that mark Baba Yaga went missing. But Gatti shaped the movements with a sure hand, culminating in a powerful account of The Great Gate of Kiev. The performance certainly swept away the cobwebs that had made the opening of Stravinsky's Circus Polka appear lacklustre, though that too was quickly steered towards its rousing

A few of the speeds in Gatti's performance of Prokofiev's Alexander Nevsky cantata may also have been on the indulgent side, but then he didn't have to keep in synch with Sergei Eisenstein's famous movie, from which this cantata is drawn. He justified any slowness in his heartfelt handling of the tender melodies and stirring patriotic tunes, and was no slouch in the splendidly incisive battle music.

The London Symphony Chorus made exciting and alert contributions, but the best singing came from Irina Tehistyakova, who disclosed an even, dark-coloured mezzo in the Field of the Dead solo. Her interior lament captured the special quality that makes this some of the greatest film

n shines ier's day Sernard Alles

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LONDON

FESTIVE AT 50: An array of gittering musical stars assemble to celebrate the Royal Philhamnonic Orchestre s 50th helyal manufamouric obtained a servi-borrindery Monsternat Cabalilit, Andrea Bocalli and the Labaque Sistems are but a tew of the amost, joining the IPO in a programmer testiming music by Respight, Both, Gershwin and Puccini Danielo Gath Sir Smon Rattle and Jose Coffedo roke fums with the baton Albert Half Kensengton Gore, SW7 (0171-569 6012) Tonight 7 30pm (5) THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR
Jonathan herri directs Tom Hollander as
the presumed inspector. Brian Murphy
as his servant and lan McDearmid as the
denous Mayor in Googal's matchless

Sature cornecty Almelda Theodre, 108 Almerda Street N1 (0171-359 4404) Opens tonight. 7pm Then Mon-Sal. 7.30pm mat Sal. 3pm Until January 31 (2) THE MEHRY WINES OF WINDSON lan Judge's joby production with Leske Prailips being crammed into the laundry basket by Joanna McCallum and usket by Joanna McCallum and susannah York, Edward Petherbridge

plays Ford Barbican Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Opens ronight, 7pm in rep & PHILMARMOWIA DRCHESTRA Returns only for this performance of Yeards: Requirent James Levine conducts the archestra and the Phiharmonia Chorus Joined by a line-up of colo luminanes including Ruberia Alagma (who replaces the indisposed Faviarotti), Renée Fleming, Lucana O lettro and Roberto Scandiuzzo Di lettro and Roberto Scandiuzzo O Intero and Roberto Scandiuzzo Restival Hall, South Bank SE1 (0171-960 42421 Tonight, 7 30pm. (5) ELSEWHERE

BYTHINGHAR: A Grand Christmas Gala by the New English Orchestra Strigers and Danoers ofters Mocart with a difference in a danced performance of Eine (Gene

EI REALITY AND THE BEAST

Desney's film rumed into a hit Broadway musical Julie Alariah Brighten and

Alasdar Harvey as the leads Comminion: Tottenham Coun Road, W1 (0171-416 6060) Mon-Sat, 7:30pm; mat Sat, 2:30pm.

THE BOYS IN THE BAND MAI

Crowley's ground-breaking gay play from 1968 now something of a pened back with its "gay means with but matched the second pened the second penedother the

wretched message. Aidwych, The Aidwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003) Mon-Sai, Bpm; mais Thur

E CHICAGO Reward version of the

pelebrated Kander & Ebb musical directed by Water Bobbie Starring

Authie Herishall, Ute Lempar, Herry Goodman and Nigel Planer

344 0055) Mgn-Sal. 8pm; mats Wed and Sal. 2 30pm (5)

CHICKS WITH PLICKS 15066

Clune's impressive (and doubtess camp) musical tribute to the disco

divas of the 70s. Her impersonation of Karen Carpenter is said to be flawless

King's Head, Upper Street, N1 (017)-226 1918) Tue-Trur, Spm. Fn and Sal. 7pm and 9pm, Sun, 3 30pm 🔊

CYTIANO DE BENGERAC THE sell-our RSC production from Stratfore with Antony Sher an Rostand's tragic

romantic hero. Gregory Ogran directs. Lyrio, Shaffesbury Ave. W1 (0171-494 5054). Mon-Sal., 7 30pm; mets Wed end

ELA GRAND WIGHT DUT WARES

and Gromit take to the stage for Christmas, pursued to London by the Penguin, excepted from gool and beni

A PURTHER GESTURE (15) Stephen

Rea's escaped IRA preoner linds He hard in Manhattan Eloquent human

Oremia, with Rissana Passor and Alfred Motina Diringtos, Robert Dominiero.

ABC Proceeding (0171-437 3091)

I NOOW WHAT YOU DID LAST

BUNESEET (18): Recibers inerages gother comeuppance Variable honor film
from the writer of Someth With Jernstein
Lover Henrif, Fraddic Ponto United States

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(0990 889990) Ritzy (0171-737

2121) UCS Whiteleys & 1098-970 889990

Virginat Pullsace Road (0171-370

2636 Trocadero & 10181-970 8016)

Trocadero (10181-970 8016) ner (10171-437 4343)

Mantegns, Kelly Lynch and Naomi Walta burn their lingers stealing drug money. So-so come thriller, directed by George

TOWORROW NEVER DIES (12)

Perce Brogner's James Bond combet an evil media mogul (Jonathan Pryce). Set piece thribs, but little spanke. With

Michelle Yeah and Ten Heicher ABC Tottomhum Court Rined (017)

ASC Tottonhum Court Rusel (0171-636 6148) Barblean () (0171-638 6901) Claphaen Picture House (0171-638 6901) Claphaen Picture House (0171-638 3323) Curzon Maylair (0171-399 1720) Greenwich (0181-235 3005) Notified His Coronet () (0171-727 6705) Oddonik Cambridge (0181-315 4214)

4255; Kensington (0181-315 4214) Leicester Square (0181-315 4215)

PERSONS LONGWOOD (100 Joy

Metro (0171-437 0757)

NEW RELEASES

nd. Landon WC2 (0171-

and Sat John

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

Nachamusik. The choreography for the work was especially divised for the orchestra's visit to the Salzburg Festival earlier this year Other teative places featured are Rossen's Whitem Tell Overture, and places from Carmen and L'Arisserine by Buzel. The evening clander and carols for all Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333) Tonight, 7 30pm (5) BRISTOL Jez Butterworth's Molo, a



Roberto Alagna sings in the Festival Hall

THEATRE GUIDE

House full, returns only
Scale meta systable
Seats at all prices

on revenge Nick Park's characters put through their paces by the Thunderbirds FAB team Peacock Theetre, Portugal Street, off Kingsway WC2 (0171-494 5090) Mon-set 7 30pm, mai Sat, 3pm. From Doc

19 mass almost daily THE HOUSE OF DESIRES ON Horse present a remarkable cornedy by the 17th-century poet, dramatist and nun, Sorulusha lines de la Cruz, who was eventually ordered to stop writing after daming a woman's right to be an seaming a worker's right to be an intellectual. Her play's subject is three men and two women locked in overlapping love triangles, and . Ino locked together in a house. BAC, Lavender Hill, SY11 1017—233. 2223), Tue-Sat, 8pm; met Sun, 8pm Unid December 21, §

Bill LTTLE EYOLF, Temfic playing by Robert Glinislie and Josinne Privace at the heart of Adran Noble's superbisen production Guit, remores and renewal on the flord. See review, right Pill, Berbscan Centre, Salk S., EC2 (0171-688 8891). Tonlight and temprove 7 15pm; mat temporow, 2pm, in rep.

W MORE CRIME TALES A MOUND group of stories by the same learn of

Cerol Ann Duffy (writer) and Tim Supple (director) who created the excellent 1994 show. Probably just as marvellously

The Tour through Northern France (0171-987-8000) V & A. Carl and Karln Larsson Creators of the Swedish (Northern Control (1998-1998)

directs. New Vite, king Suesi (0117 987 7877) Opens longhi, 7-30pm Then Mon-Wed. 7-30pm; Thur-Sat. Spm; mats Thur and Sat, 2,30pm. Until January 17.

LEEDS: Continuing her euccessitul collaboration with Opera North, Annabel Arden directs the company in a new production of The Magic Fute A

new look is brought to Mozari's allegorical tale by designer Roswitha Gestatz, with lighting by Peaule Constable. The cust is lead by Margaret Richardson as Parima, with Nell Archor In the role of Tamino and Cara O'Sullivan as The Queen of Night. Brad Cohon conducts.

Canada Theestee, 48 Nov Briggss (0113-245 9351/440971). Opens tonight, 74 form 87.

POOLE. Settle down to some surreal midwriter cheer in the company of one of the hobitest comic properties around as the award-winning stand-up Henry HBI's 50-venue rishonal tour hits lown

tonight. With stalwar, support from Stoutier the Cat.

Arts Centre, Kingland Road (01202 685222) Tonight, 7.30pm. (2)

British Measure Carine 1900-1918 (0171-323 8225) Haryward: Chyacis of Desire: The Modern Still Life (0171-928 3144) Measurem of London. Bediam Custody, care and cure, 1247-1997 (0171-600 0807) Mational. Hogarit's Mamage Ala-Mode (0171-747 2865) Mational Pertirait: Sr Henry Resburn (1756-1823) (0171-308 (0055) Royal Acadessry Victorian Fary Pantang (0171-439 7438) ... Sementine: Piero Manzoni (0171-402

rtime: Piero Manzoni (0171-4)2 Tater Turner on the Lore

LONDON GALLERIES

ew look is brought to Mozart's

7.15pm. 👸

hiscaine
The Young Vic, 66 The Cut. 5E1
((171-928 6363) Mon-Sat at vanous
times (10.30am, 30pm, 2.30pm, 7pm)
and on Sun (Jan 4, 11, 18). 4pm CTHELLO: Unveil Hampwood makes he: National Theatre debut in the title role his National Theatin debut in the title role of Sam Mendes is production with Caure faithner as him offered and timon Russell Beals as togo Netfered (Collegios), Sown Bark, SET (0171-928-2252) Tomphi and tomotrow, 7pm. In rep

STRANGER'S HOUSE: Mary Pente directs the main German production in the New European Witting season. Dea Loher's play follows the unfolding crisis after the armst of a Miscadonliga Computer or a German rown Royal Court Upstains (Ambassadors), West St, WC2 (0171-565 5000) Tonight LONG RUNNERS

□ Blood Brothery Phoens: (0171-369
1733) . ■ Buddy Strand (0171-4930
8800) ■ Ceta New Lordon
(0171-495 0072) . □ The Complete
(Abridged) Chenon (0171-399 1737)
. ■ Miss Seigen: Druy Lane
(0171-494 5400) . □ The
Moutathap: Si Martin's (0171-895
1443) . ■ Other: Palectium (0171-494 5020) . ■ Startight Express
Apolio Victora, (0171-416 9054) Apolio Victoria (0171-416 6954)

The Woman in Black Fortune

CINEMA GUIDE

(0171-935 2772) Virgins: Chelees (0171-352 5096) Fullium Road (0171-370 2836)

CURRENT scavengers light for their home. Echlerating lamily film, much adapted from the children's classic; With John from the Children's Calabac, Warn-John Goodmen, Jim Broadbern. Berblean & (0171-838 9891) Greenwich (0181-335 905) Coleens: Kentenington (0181-315 4214) Marble Anch (0181-315 4216) Swiss Collage (0181-315 4220) Plaza & (0290 (0290) UCI Warn-John (020) (0200) Viroling-Suffan Rogal (0171 888990) Virgins: Futhern Road (01 370 2636) Trocadero (2) (0161-970 6015) Werner (2) (0171-437 4343) COP LAND (16) Lazy sherifl ponders whell to do about corrupt cope Flawed but absorbing drams, with Syvester Statione, Harvey Kertel, Rober De Niro, Director, James Mangold

Director, James Mangold Ich (0181-235 3005) Odes

Greenwich (0181-235 2445) Caunden (0181-315 4255) Ken

(0161-315 4214) Marble Arch (0161-315 4216) Swiss Cottage (0181-315

4220; Ritzy (9171-737 2121) Screen/Baker St (0171-935 2772)

Whiteleys (0171-352 5096) Virgina: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Trocadero (017) 0181-970 6015) Warner (017)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Thoules

◆ THE FULL MONTY (15)
Unemployed sterifenshire trip for case.
Bouncy Brash comedy, with Robert
Carryle, Tom Willerson, Mark Addy
Oderons: Markerson, Markerson
(1715) Smiles Cottlege (1716) -315 A220
Williams (2) (1220) 8889901 United Challese (1717) -323 5096) Trecedence
(1717) -323 5096) Trecedence
(1717) -323 5096) Trecedence IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U) Frank

claubitry (10-gooder Clapham Plature House (0171-498 1722) Screen/HIII (\$\infty\) (0171-435 3365) Virgin Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) ONE NIGHT STAND (18): Absorbing study in infidelity and its atternation Econtient performances from Westey States, Martinston Visitor, Robert Service (1997) 1-767 4043 (1998) Plaza © 10990 888990| Rittey (0171-737 2721) UCI Whiteleys © (1990 888990) Wirgia Troadero © (0181-770 8015) Warner © (0171-437 4343)

bury Avenue (0171-836 6279)

The Front Page Donmar

en Hecht and Charles MacArthur,

Chicago reporters

dramatists, never lost their nostalgia for the raucous may-

hem of the 1920s newsroom.

that fondly remember an era

when an orthodontist who

raped a patient was fêted with

the headline "Dentist Fills Wrong Cavity". It is equally

apparent in their joint tri-

the Donmar confirms, this

remains a wonderfully, wick-

edly ambivalent piece. Hecht

and MacArthur know they

should disapprove of a journo

who, hearing over the phone of murder and injury, emits happy gurgles of fine and

"swell". They know that no

decent person would beg a

sheriff to bring forward an

execution so that he can catch

an early-morning deadline. But they cannot disguise the relish they feel for the two

main characters played so robustly by Griff Rhys Jones

and Alun Armstrong at the

Donmar: the peppy news-hound Hildy Johnson and his

bullying, brutal managing editor, Walter Burns,

a trio of movies, you probably

know the story. Johnson is off

to the security of marriage and

a job in advertising in New

York when, crash, bullets splinter the windows of the

pressroom in Chicago's crimi-

nal courts. The young anar-

chist who is to be hanged next

day has escaped. How can a

good reporter run from a big story that, when he manages

to secrete the fugitive in a

colleague's rolltop desk, seems

about to become a gigantic

scoop? Of course he can't -

and the authors' sympathies are with him and his boss, not

with his tearful fiancée, nor

with the sentimentally con-

ceived whore who berates the

coarse, cynical newsmen with

Shame on you! A poor little

Since the play has spawned

As Sam Mendes's revival at

umph. The Front Page.

turned Broadway

crazy fellow alone with the Angel of Death, and you're That is evident from memoirs cracking jokes."

A play that began as an exposé ends as a celebration of tabloid journalism. All is sleazy verve and seedy gusto as the pressmen battle for their exclusives and corrupt politicians for the execution that will win them the upcoming election. This is a world of lies, tricks, graft, blackmail and violence - and that is the way Hecht and MacArthur like it. The universe outside is for cissy nine-to-fivers and New York"lizzies".

It would be absurdly humourless to moralise or complain, especially when Mendes's production manages both to evoke the dingy, run-down atmosphere of the newsroom, with its endless racist slurs and misogynist cracks, and to keep the fun racing along. One or two actors try too hard to be funny and become mannered. But there are nice performances from Adam Godley as the pressroom's resident nerd and prig, Christopher Benjamin as a sly, fake-genial mayor, and, especially, a rasping Armstrong as the champion bruis-

er of Windy City journalism. Rhys Jones, with his bustling manner and bubbly voice, isn't my idea of the "lusty, hoodlumesque, halfdrunk caballero" of the play's stage directions. But he brims with energy and brings all his comic expertise to the panic of a Johnson pulled one way by his prospective wife and mother-in-law and the other by those macho instincts Hecht and MacArthur surreptitiously share. I laughed a lot.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE This review appeared in late



Robust duo: Alun Armstrong as Walter Burns and Griff Rhys Jones as Hildy Johnson

A fatal flaw conquered

Little Eyelf Barbican Pit

PAST productions of this late Ibsen play led me to believe that it was fatally flawed by abrupt changes of tone. Written after The Master Builder, where a poisoned marriage ends with the husband's death, lbsen contrived a way for a stricken couple to carry on. But after what Alfred Allmers and his Rita have undergone death of love, death of ambition. death of their nine-year-old crippled son - the hints of an even modestly happy future have always looked

But in Adrian Noble Little Eyolf has found its director. When Robert Glenister and Joanne Pearce stand alongside each other at the close, their prospects may not be truly hopeful; this really doesn't matter: what has proved so convincing is the route that has brought them to this point. Noble's production and his cast unchanged from its opening at Stratford -- establish the play's unflinching

exposure of passion and conscience as

lbsen's three cluttered sets to a bare ground sparsely occupied by table and benches. The background fjord is suggested by a translucent sheet where radiant blues float into peacock greens, while the cracks in the ground that radiate from a spot near the table perhaps mark the very spot where the baby Eyolf fell. Far from seeming artifice, the cracks beneath the feet combine with Michael Meyer's resonant translation and the gestures and haunted eyes of the players to compose the fierce tensions of the play.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Magical

chapter to the next. The Arabs may be dressed in their pastel pantomime best but there are a couple of sharp edges that have to be avoided. Stewart Thompson plays the sulky Sultan, who kills virgins on a nightly basis because his wife ran away with a servant. He also doubles as the evil uncle who holds an innocent girl and her sick brother to ransom. Straws don't get much shorter than his when it comes to bartering for the loyalties of an army of schoolchildren.

all with her first simper, barely needing her song, Scheherazade's Panic, to reveal that she has only avoided death because of her ability to tell ripping yarns. But as the thousandth night arrives she finds she's run out of inspiration. Cue Ross MacKenzie's flakey genie.

"Cover me in camei droppings," he howls, in a fair imitation of Scoobje Doo, as the two embark on a dangerous trip to the sleazy side of town: Scheherazade to find inspiration for: her stories. Gromar to rediscover his . powers. Arab robbers attack them like Keystone Cops, and Adrian Sarple's Ajib dives in to save them like Bruce Lee. Wicked Uncle Schahzabac tosses them into the clouds, and Joshua Bancel's piratical Sinbad rescues them from the middle of the ocean.

Mander's production, however refuses to degenerate into pantomime which proves rather frustrating for the youngest children, keen for more slapstick and interaction. But Taylor's music and Marty Flood's beautifully costumed designs keep the story at a mythic, and magical, distance. What's being celebrated is the illustrated art of storytelling. "The human imagination is deeper than the deepest well." says a booming voiceover at one point. Quite a few young imaginations enjoyed an unexpected tumble.

from £30 upwards 11 Motcomb S SW1 Mon-Fn 10-6pm tel £35814

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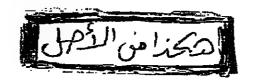
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feince, Ex parte Murray Before Lord Bingham of Combill, Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice

S On

[Judgment December 15]

Although there was no general overciding principle of law which required a decision-making body to give reasons for its decision fairness would in the particular that it circumstances often demand that it Therefore, fairness did require that a court-martial should have

reasons for rejecting the exemplary service that the effects of an anti-malarial drug had sed him to commit an offence of wounding to which he pleaded guilty, and for sentencing him to isonment with consequent atory dismissal and reduction

The Queen's Bench Divisional Offirst so stated when granting an application for judicial review by application for junious to the Colin Murray and quasting the decisions of a district court-martial which had rejected the causal connection evidence and sentenced him to six months imprisonment, to be reduced to the ranks and sed from the Army following his plea of guilty to a civil nce, contrary to section 70 of he Army Act 1955, namely wounding contrary to section 20 of the Offences against the Persons Act

The applicant's challenge that the sentence was unreasonable in the Wednesbury sense [(1948] | KB

220) was rejected.
The applicant then a sergeant in
I Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment, having pleaded guilty to wounding, addoced evidence of his record as an exemplary soldier of 20 years service whose commission of the offence was totally out of character partly due his ingestion of the anti-malarial drug, mefloquine.

The court-martial reached its conclusion on the evidence and passed sentence without giving reasons. Dismissal was the obliga tory result of a sentence of imprisonment, rather than one of detention, with the consequence that the applicant was unable to complete 22 years service which would have carried with it considerable financial benefits.

The sentence was confirmed by the confirming officer, who had also been the convening officer, and two subsequent petitions for review were rejected, no reasons ever being given. Under the proseek leave to appeal against sen-tence lay to the Courts-Martial Appeal Court

On the only available remedy. the present application for judicial review, no affidavit explaining the reasons was adduced by the Ministry of Defence.

Miss Clare Montgomery, QC and Mr Richard Wormald for the applicant; Mr James Eadie for the Ministry of Defence

MR JUSTICE HOOPER said that given the applicant's exem-plary background and that any act of violence was entirely out o character, had given the evidence he had adduced, an explanation as to why the court thought he had reacted as

Even if the court were right to reach its conclusion, it would have been desirable to have had an explanation as to why it was thought that he should be sen-tenced as he had been and in particular why impromment and dismissed, without these detailed. dismissal rather than detention was thought necessary. He, his larnly and regiment were entitled, it might be thought, so some

His Lordship referred to the statutory framework in place at the relevant time, which made no provision for the giving of reasons n present circumstances. He also referred to subsequent changes, effected by the Armed Forces Act 1996 and the Courts-Martial (Army) Rules (SI 1997 No 169), saying that of relevance, or possible relevance, were the provisions that:

(i) There was now a right to seek leave to appeal against sentence to the Courts-Martial Appeal Court: (ii) the judge advocate was now a member of the court, although not diberated on a charge; (iii) the judge advocate might in open court question the court on any finding of fact reached during its delibera-tions on the findings on any charge; (iv) any reasons for sen-tence were, with the sentence, to be announced in open court: (v) provision was made in the rules for determining disputes of fact after a finding of guilt, and (vi) the reviewing authority was now required to give reasons for its decision if, inter alia, a petition was presented under section 113(1) of the 1955 Act as amended by the

Miss Montgomery had relied on R v Civil Service Appeal Board, Exparte Cunningham [1992] ICR 816), R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Doody (1994) I AC 531) and R v

Higher Education Funding Council. Ex parte Institute of Dental Surgery (1994) I WLR 241). From those authorities the following principles might be

I The law did not at present recognise a general duty to give

2 Where a statute conferred on any body the power to make decisions affecting individuals, the court not only required the procedure pre-scribed by statute to be followed, but would imply just such addi-tional procedural standards as

3 in the absence of a requirement to give reasons, the person seeking to argue that they should have been given had to show that the procedure adopted of not giving teasons was unfair,

4 There was a perceptible trend towards an insistence on greater openness in the making of administrative decisions.

5 In deciding whether fairness required a tribunal to give reasons.

regard would be had not only to the first instance bearing but also to the availability and nature of any appellate remedy, or remedy by way of judicial review; (a) absence of any appellate right might be a factor in deciding that reasons should be given; and (b) if it was important that there should the kind of error, by way of judicia review, which would entitled the court to intervene, reasons might

have to be disclosed. 6 The fact that a tribunal was currying out a judicial function was a consideration in favour of a requirement of reasons, particularly where personal liberty was

7 If the giving of a decision without reasons was insufficient to achieve justice then reasons should be required, as also where the decision appeared aberrant.

as the following factors were in favour of requiring reasons: (a) that giving reasons concentrated the decision-maker's mind on the right questions and demonstrated in the recipient that that was so. (b) it also showed that the issues had been conscientiously addressed and how the result had been reached, (c) alternatively, it alerted the recipient to a justiciable flaw in

The following factors were against the requirement of reasons: (a) it might place an undue burden on decision-makers, (b) demand an appearance of unanimity where there was diversity, (c) call for articulation of sometimes inexpressible value The Lord Chief Justice delive a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Redfem & Stigment and Stigm

tion to the captious to comb the reasons for previously unsuspected grounds of challenge. 10 Although Surness might favour a requirement for reasons there might be outweighing consid-erations of public interest.

If The giving of reasons would not be required if the procedures of the particular decision-maker would he frustrated by their being

Applying those principles, his Lordship answered in the affir-mative the question: did fairness require here that reasons should have been given as to why the court (a) reached the conclusion tion between the anti-malarial drug and the applicant's behav-iour and (b) decided that the sentence of imprisonment was required, rather than a lesser sentence which would not have had the same dire consequences

for the applicant?
He rejected the public interest reasons relied on by Mr Eadie who had drawn analogies with other judicial bodies such as a jury or judicial bodies such as a jury or stices in reaching their verdicts in criminal cases. His Lordship accepted Miss

Montgomery's submissions that those bodies were not analogous those bothes were not analogous because in the case of a jury the Court of Appeal, Criminal Di-vision, might be asked to decide whether a conviction was sale and therefore there would be reasons at some stage of the process, and in the case of justices, because (a) a convicted defendant had a right of appeal to the crown court which was expected to give reasons, or (b) an by way of case stated was evaluable.

It was unnecessary to decide whether the confirming officer and the reviewing authorities should have given reasons. There was much force in the argument that present facts and the new rules raposed a requirement to do so on the reviewing authorities.

It was not to be thought than failure to give reasons would normally result in the quashing of a post-conviction determination fact, a sentence or the review of a the circumstances of each case. Judicial review was unlikely to

succeed where the reasons were easily discernible albeit not exed or where no other conclu sion than that reached was realistically possible. The Lord Chief Justice delivered

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the cargo owners were required to

sue in a jurisdiction where the

shinowners would have been en-

Fairness often demands reasons No abuse to court-martial civilian

Regina v Martin (Alan) Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hope of

Craighead and Lord Clyde [Speeches December 16] It had not been an abuse of process for a civilian aged 19 to be tried on a murder charge by court-martial in Germany, where the alleged offence had been committed, rather than by judge and jury in

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by Alan Martin from the Courts-Martial Appeal Court (Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Owen and Mr Justice Conneil) who ou July 30, 1996 had dismissed his

appeal against conviction.

Lord Thomas of Gresford, QC and Mr Gilbert Blades, solicitor, for Mr Martin; Mr Philip Havers, QC and Mr Neill Stewart for the

LORD LLOYD said that Mr

Martin, then aged 17, had been charged with the murder of Vanessa Marie Chappell. It was not suggested that there had been any irregularity in the conduct of the court-martial proceedings, nor that the prosecution had acted in bad faith or with impropriety. What was suggested was that What was suggested was that Mr Martin should not have been tried by court-martial at all: he should have been tried in England

before a judge and jury pursuant to section 9 of the Offences against the Person Act Mile. At the time of the murder he had been living with his family in Germany where his father, an army corporal, was serving with the British Forces. While in Germany he had been subject to military law: Army Act 1955, section 209 and Schedule S, para-

graph 5. He had been correctly

Penalty for

unnecessary

costs

Burrows v Vauxhall Motors

Mongiardi y IBC Vehicles

unnecessarily incurred as the re-

sult of the premature issue of proceedings in personal injury actions when liability was not in

issue, the taxing officer retained

the power under Order 62, rule 10(1) of the Rules of the Supreme

Court to disallow costs or order a

party at fault to pay to the other

party his costs occasioned by any act done or omission made un-

On acceptance by the plaintiff of

a payment into court, the action

1981 No 1678 L20). By Order 38,

rules i, 3 and 19A the county court

could not exercise the power con-ferred by Order 62, rule 10(1) of the

Rules of the Supreme Court after the granting of a stay, except on taxation when the taxing officer

The Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord

Justice Phillips and Lord Justice Chadwick) so held on November

19, giving guidelines on two appeals in personal injury cases in which the defendants' insurers wished if possible to actile the claims but county court summons were issued before they had lead time to consider medical.

had had time to consider medica

In each case after seeing those

reports the defendants made pay-ments into court which the plain-

retained that power.

reasonably or improperly.

charged in Germany with having committed the civil offence of murder contrary to section 70 of . The officer appointed to act as

his commanding officer had decided to refer the case to higher authority, under section 79(1) as amended by section 3(5) of the Army Act (981, with a view to his being tried by court-martial, and the prescribed steps had been taken under section 79(3).

In the meantime Corporal Marin had been posted to England, and Mr Martin had subsequently been returned to England so as to be near his family. On Corporal Martin's return to England. Mr Martin would ordinarily have newed to be subject to military law. but by section 131 he remained subject to it in respect of offences committed while in Germany provaded that his trial started wit six months or the consent of the Attorney-General was obtained: section 132(3A), as substituted by

section 6(3) of the 1981 Act. That consent had subsequently been given, it having been ex-plained to the Attorney-General Germany since many of the wit-nesses were German and could not be subpoenzed to attend a trial in

Lord Thomas submitted that the trial of a young civilian by court-martial was inherently unfair and oppressive. Instead of Mr Martin being tried by a jury of his peers, the court-martial would consist of five senior officers and two civilians. The atmosphere would be very different from that of an English court and there was a risk

himself justice. In particular, it was unfair and oppressive, it was submitted, that he should have been returned to stand trial in Germany after many months in England and after his father had ceased to be subject to military law. He could only be convicted in England by a majority of at least ten to two, whereas a simple majority sufficed in a trial

abuse of process were never closed. but the decisive factor in the present case was that Parliament had itself approved trial by courtmartial as a mode of trial appropriate for civilians in certain ircumstances, and for juveniles

charged with murder; see sec 7LA of the 1955 Act, inserted by section 10(1) of the Armed Forces Since the procedure had been approved by Parliament, it seemed obvious that the carrying out of the procedure could not of itself be categorised as an abuse of process.

Lord Thomas said that Mr Martin's commanding officer ought to have exercised his power under section 77A, inserted by section 3(3) of the 1981 Act, to stay the court-martial proceedings "in the interests of the better administration of justice" so as to allow Mr Martin to be tried in England. But it was not enough that he ought to have stayed them: it had to be shown that his failure to do so had been an abuse of process.

Lord Thomas relied on R v
Horseferry Road Magistrates'
Court, Ex parte Bennett (1994) AC
42, 62) per Lord Griffiths, but the
facts of that case were remote from those of the present.

It could not possibly be said that the decision not to stay proceed-ings by court-martial in Germany, where the crime had been commitged, had been contrary to the rule of law or deprived Mr Martin of any of his basic human rights. Nor could it be said to have been

"something so unfair and wrong" (Hul Chi-Ming v The Queen (1992) I AC 34, 57, per Lord Lowry) The commanding officer's decision had been fully open to him under a procedure prescribed by Parliament. It might have been the wrong decision. Their Lordships did not know enough to say. But it had not been an abuse of process. or anything like it.

His Lordship agreed with Lord
The same applied to the decision of the higher authority not to refer The same applied to the decision the case back to the commanding officer with a direction to stay and to the decision of the Attorney. General to grant his consent.

Even if the Courts-Martial Appeal Court had been satisfied that there had been an abuse of process ir would have had to dismiss the appeal unless persuaded that the conviction was unsafe. Nothing in such material as was before the House of Lords made his Lordship think that if

8-3-

Lord Browne-Wilkinson agreed with Lord Lloyd.

LORD SLYNN, also agreeing. said that as a matter of first impression it had seemed to him disturbing and indeed wrong in principle that a civilian aged 19, who had with his father returned to England more than a year before trial, should have been sent back to Germany for trial by courtmarrial and thereby been deprived

of the right, or at least of the opportunity, of trial by jury.

It was, however, clear that Parliament had provided for a court-martial to be held in the circumstances of the case and it had not been shown that there had been any breach of the rules or any abuse of process entitling the Courts-Martial Appeal Court or the House of Lords to interfere.

In addition, weight had to be given to the fact that it seemed that there would have been great difficulty in having the evidence of at any rate some of the crucial German witnesses before the Enghish civilian court; trial somewhere there clearly had had to be.

Accordingly, and despite his anxiety about the case, his Lord-ship agreed that for the reasons given by Lord Lloyd the appeal should be dismissed.

Lord Hope and Lord Clyde delivered opinions concurring in dismissing the appeal. Solicitors: Mr Gilbert Blades, Lincoln; Director of Army Legal

Aggravated burglary offence of the occupant who told them he 10 would therefore lead to the

Regins v Klass Before Lord Justice Mantell, Mr Justice Hooper and Judge Michael

[Judgment November 27] To commit an offence of ag-

gravated burglary contrary to section 10 of the Theft Act 1968, a weapon of offence at the time of entry. The offence could not be committed if the weapon was not being carried by one of the people effecting entry to the building.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing an appeal by Kennedy Francis Klass against his conviction in January 1997 at Chelmsforti Crown Court (Mr Recorder Parkins, QC) of aggravated burglary for which he was sentenced to three years detention in a young offender

ir turion Section 9 of the Theft Act 1966 provides: "(i) A person is guilty of burglary if — (a) he enters any building ... as a trespesser and with intent to commit any ...

offence ... [such as] stealing any-thing in the building..." Section 10 provides: "(1) A person is guilty of aggravated burglary if he commits any burglary and at the time has with him ... any weapon of offence ... and for this purpose (b) 'weapon of offence' means any article made or

adapted for use for causing injury to or incapacitating a person. Mr John C. Barker, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Miss Susannan Farr for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE HOOPER, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant and two other men, one of whom had a piece of pole in his hand, wrenched open the door of a caravan and demanded money

did not have any. The man with the pole then hit the occupant of the caravan over the head and pursued him as he ran away, himing him repeatedly.

When the appellant was subsequently arrested he admitted being outside the caravan but denied entering it, although his fingerprints were found on a worktop inside. He said that when he saw the victim being hit he and the third man ran away. . .

On the appeal, the question of law raised was whether the offence of aggravated burglary could be committed if the weapon was not being carried by the burglar or one of the burglars who entered the building. Assuming there was only one

weapon and that weapon was with the person on the outside, that person committed burglary if he was aiding and abetting the burglary being committed by the person effecting entry.

conclusion that both could be convicted of aggravated burgiary. However, the gravamen of the offence was entry into the building with a weapon.
The purpose of section 10 was to

deter people from taking weapons into buildings and other people's The fact that a getaway driver had a weapon with him in the car would not, in their Lordships' judgment, be sufficient to turn an offence of burglary into one of aggravated burglary. Although there were certain academic attructions in the strict interpretation. the purposive approach was to be

In the circumstances, the conviction of aggravated burglary had to be quashed. Relying on section 3 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968, a conviction for burghary would be substituted and the seniones would be reduced to two years detention. Service, Chelmsford.

A strict interpretation of section No notice of fraud

Turkiye IS Bankasi AS v

Bank of China Counter-guarantees given by one bank to another were enforceable unless the bank which issued the guarantees had notice of clear

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Mantell) so held on November 5 dismissin an appeal by the defendant against a decision of Mr Justice Waller in the Commercial Court (The Times March 8, 1996) enforcing certain counter-guarantees made to the

ADMINISTRATIVE

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said the judge had held that the only basis on which the defendant could resile from payment under the there was clear fraud of which the defendant had notice: Edward Owen Engineering Ltd v Barclays Bank International Ltd (1978) 1 QB 159). That was the correct test

Correction

which the judge had applied.

In Montgomery v Sabella Ltd (The Times December 15), the solicitors for the appellant landford were Goldkorn Davies Mathias.

NON-SECRETARIAL

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Stay available on waiving time bar commence proceedings in England. The effect of the jurisdiction clause in the bill of lading was that In the latter case Mr Justice Rix Baghlaf Al Safer Factory Co exclusive jurisdiction clause which

BR for Industry Ltd v Pakistan National Shipping Com-Before Lord Justice Phillips, Lord Justice Waller and Lord Justice

Chodwick In the context of an exclusive iurisdiction clause in a bill of ding, where a plaintiff had acted reasonably in commencing proceedings in England and in flowing time to expire in the dereed foreign jurisdiction, a stay of the English proceedings should only be granted on terms that the defendant waived the time bar in

the foreign jurisdiction. The Court of Appeal so stated. inter alia. In a reserved judgment when allowing the appeal by shipowners, Pakistan National Shipping Co, against a decision of Judge Kershaw, QC, sitting as a judge of the Commercial Court on January 3, 1997, to dismiss their application for a stay of proceed-ings brought by cargo owners seeking to recover damages for breach of contract of carriage. The bills of lading contained an

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MULTI-LINGUAL

OPPORTUNITIES

provided for the contract to be governed by the law of the place where the carrier had his principal disputes determined at that place. Mr Timothy Young, QC and Mr

cargo owners. LORD JUSTICE PHILLIPS said that of general significance was the question where a claim relating to carriage of goods by sea.
had become time-barred in what would otherwise be the appro-priate or agreed jurisdiction in which it should be tried, did that militate in favour of granting a stay of the English proceedings, or

against granting a stay, or was it a neutral factor? There was no binding decision on the point and different judges had expressed different views. The authorities had been reviewed in the Commercial Court involving exclusive foreign jurisdiction clauses in bills of lading: see Citi-March Ltd v Neptune Orient Lines [1997] 1 Lloyd's Rep 72) and The MC Pearl [1997] 1 Lloyd's Rep

was not able to envisage a situation in which it might be reasonable to start proceedings in England in disregard of a foreign jurisdiction clause, but where the plaintiffs would be unable subsequently to demonstrate that there was strong Arshad Ghaffar for the ship-owners; Mr Michael Nolan for the cause for proceeding in England.

rectifions interestional co. seeks a lexic Swedish speaking PA to veich or that Swedish Pacture. Conditions upper by in their 3072/407s, possessi-scelled, secretarial selfa, ber tally sexpeks Surate and lease Andio.

to Lucies, Will stall, Tale \$177-

Accordingly he did not believe that Lord Goff's speech in The Spillada (1987) 1 AC 460, 483) could apply in the context of an exclusive jurisdiction clause.

His Lordship considered that the demands of practical justice identified by Lord Goff could in some circumstances apply to an exclusive jurisdiction clause

Where a plaintiff had acted reasonably in commencing proceedings in England and in allowing time to expire in the agreed foreign furisdiction, a stay of the English proceedings should only be granted on terms that the defendant waived the time bar in the foreign jurisdiction.

In his Lordship's judgment fa

tors existed in the case which, when viewed objectively, made it

mable for the cargo owners to

fraction of the claim. It was only by suing in England that the cargo to waive that limit.

in his Lordship's judgment, where a bill of lading contained a foreign jurisdiction clause whose effect would be to limit the holder's claim to a sum that was less than an applicable Hague-Visby Rules limit, the English court should normally treat the holder as en-titled to disregard that clause unless and until the shipowner undertook that he would not seek to take advantage of the lower

The stay would be granted subject to the shipowners undertaking to waive the time limit in Pakistan.

Lord Justice Waller and Lord Justice Chadwick agreed. Solicitors: More Fisher Brown, Akigase; Swinnerton Claydon & Co.

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changes If you have a picture you would like to use, copy it to the clipboard by selecting it and then choosing Edit/-Copy in a program such as Paint or even your Internet browser. When editing the button, after choosing Modify/Selection, select Paste/Button/Image.

CHRIS WARD

Poaching bosses is acceptable, but tempers flare when secretaries are lured away by rival firms, writes Susan MacDonald

Headhunters target top legal staff

firms to poach each other's finest brains - and their clients who change companies with them — is well known. Not only does it go on throughout Britain but also across the Atlantic as UK and American law firms headhunt each other's top and upand-coming lawyers.

But now the shortage of top legal secretaries means that they, too, are being poached. The system is the same as for their bosses — but what is sauce for the goose is not necessarily sauce for the gander. "Bosses will see headhunting

among lawyers as normal practice but will go mad if an approach is made to their secretaries," says Kevin Hibbert, chief executive of Capital Legal Associates, the legal secretary recruitment agency. "So what we do is to take our top clients to Ladies' Day at Ascot, and as we entertain them we ask them two questions. We say: 'If we took your secretary away from you, would you stop being our client? And 'If we found you a good secretary, would you take her on even though you knew she had been headhunted?" [[the answer to both these questions is yes, we set up a 'hands off' policy, agreeing that we will take from others but not from their firm."

Capital Legal Associates, part of Abacus recruitment is based in London but has recently opened an office in Leeds and is planning offices for Manchester and Birmingham. It has started headhuntthrough its database, based on information from colleagues or those it has placed in a

When, for instance, a client is in urgent need of a marine litigation secretary, the agency telephones the best candidate. "We start by saying 'you won't know us but you have been highly recommended . . . Usually the immediate answer is 'not interested', but by the time we have finished describing the iob and the increase in salary, she will ask for

to change, she is un-likely to inform her boss that she has been Helen Dunn was headhunted by Nabarro Nathanson. "It was quite an ego boost," she says headhunted, according to Mr Hibbert. Usually, she will do this only if she has refused the job. "We received an angry call from one boss

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Angela Mortimer

why he thought that secretaries were not worth the same treatment." Although some firms are slow to modernise, legal secretarial work is changing. Typing speeds are no longer essential for firms that have who had been told we had approached his secretary," says Mr Hibbert. "He told me never to do it their own word-processing departagain. I pointed out that he had ments. The secretaries, who are sure acquired most of his lawyers to be snapped up, are those with an through headhunting and asked Association of Legal Secretaries

certificate (a two-year college course) and A-level law, Mr Hibbert says, One large law firm takes 22 secretaries a year straight from college. Then they should be able to use packages such as PowerPoint and Excel in addition to a word-processing package, have excellent organisational skills and be flexible in their working hours. In return, salaries

Virginia Hanberry

recruits for the international American law firm Squire Sanders & Dempsey. There is such a shortage of top secretaries, she says, that firms are now offering interim increases and above average bonuses to prevent their secretaries from leaving at the start of the year, when

lots of secretaries do. f have spent a frantic year trying to re-cruit good-calibre secretaries and we have been forced to bring secretaries from our American offices to work in London. The average salary for a top legal PA in London is about £24,000," she

In fact the legal secretary recruitment sector has be-come so busy that Ms Hanberry has decided to leave her firm in January to set up as a recruitment specialist for the 200 American law firms in Britain. Helen Dunn, 36, has been in the legal sector nearly ten years and was headhunted for the London West End firm of Nabarro Nathanson earlier this year. "It was

and bonuses are on the increase. quite an ego boost that someone appreciated me so much. I was asked if I would be manager of a word-processing and proof-reading

department. "At first I said no, because I wanted to move upwards, not sideways, but was assured that this would be promotion. So then I started asking the questions. Its

love it here," she says. Sandra Parris, 33, agrees that there is now a shortage of good secretaries. She has worked in the sector for 13 years and said that this shortage means that the smaller firms in London are losing our. She says the secretarial turnover is increasing. Medium-sized firms find that with the salaries they can afford they cannot replace those who leave with secretaries of the same ability. "So in some smaller firms secretarial standards are falling," she says.

One secretary, who finally decided to leave the legal sector after 14 years, did so when she was sent for an interview with a firm where secretaries worked screened off from each other by individual partitions. "I felt like a battery hen." she says.

• We apologise for the technical error in last week's article which caused some paragraphs to be printed out of sequence.

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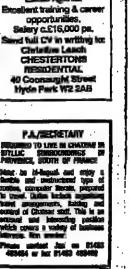
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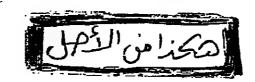


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Great escape from the good life

Many city folk dream of fleeing the jams, noise and pollution for a quiet life in the country. But is it any less stressful?

A REPORT from the Rural Development Commission on England's 9,000 parishes shows that rural districts have few local facilities

Some 29 per cent of parishes lack a pub, 42 per cent have no permanent shop, 49 per cent no schools, 83 per cent no doctor, and 92 per cent no With depleted public transport

services (75 per cent of parishes have no daily bus services), cars are increasingly the only form of transport available to rural residents. Chirpy city types might think that on moving to remote country areas they can walk or ride to the station or into town, as if they were characters in a Thomas Hardy novel, But again, the reality often proves disheartening. Country roads and lanes are sometimes not the quiet and safe byways they once were. Richard Simmonds, the chairman of the Countryside Commission, says that on many rural roads it is no longer safe to walk, cycle, pash a pram or ride a horse. Here EMMA MAHONY tells how her dream of living in the country turned sour and why she and her family returned to the city.

ast weekend, we packed our final box and set off back to the city. The rural idyll was over. We had spent 18 months in a village called Plumpton in East Sussex, and acquired a baby, an au pair and an alarming number of debts.

Our decision to move to Plumpton had been spontaneous. It was April and we were stuck renting a studio flat in Fulham after our offer on a flat had been gazumped. We had already moved three times since our marriage and were fed up with the fickleness of the London property market and having to flounce into the bathroom after a row (it was the only other room in the flat).

Dreaming of a summer out of the traffic and fumes, we spent a weekend with a friend in the country. On a walk, he pointed to a converted Victorian stable block that was available to rent. Within



Goodbye to the country: Emma and Adam with son Humphrey outside the converted Victorian stable block, which has eight rooms and a walled garden

two weeks we were back, humming appreciatively at the eight rooms and magnificent walled garden. A month later we moved in.

We were lucky. In May 1996 country rentals were experiencing a boom greater than that of London, so we were fortunate to find somewhere so fast. At the time, Strutt and Parker in Lewes, the nearest town, had 1,000 applicants on its books looking for similar properties.

A survey from the estate agents Hamptons reports that the number of applicants wanting to rent in the country doubled last year, and that 36 per cent were people who wished

to buy but were renting as a stopgap cause of a shortage of property. A further 9 per cent were identified as preferring London, but had opted to rent in the country because they could not find

anything decent to rent in town. Falling somewhere between these statistical stools, we wished for a change of scene. The first summer was glorious. The

weather was hot and friends from the city came down at weekends. We spent lazy

The first summer was glorious. It was hot and friends from the city came down at weekends'

> days playing tennis, going for walks and feeding the chickens. My husband, Adam. and I were both self-employed at the time, so we took the train to London only a few days a week, while communicating with our offices by home computer.

Then my husband was offered a job in London, and the nightmare of the daily trek to the city began. Commuting killed our dream. Plumpton was one hour's journey to Victoria, but driving to the station and taking the Tube at the other end stretched the travelling time to

two hours each way. Even before Connex South Central took over the line, shortening the number of carriages and lengthening the amount of time spent waiting on the platform, the strain began to show.

First there was the business of getting to the station. By the time Humphrey was born we had only one car, so at 7am each morning I had to load the baby into the car to get my husband to work, and employ a babysitter at 8pm each evening so that I could drive to the station again to pick him up.

Then there was the expense. Our excited back-of-an-envelope calculations had not included train fares. It is one thing to give up a flat at £650 a month in Fulham for a house at £750 near Brighton, but £400 in train fares needs to be added to the rent. And there is no question of being without a car in the country.

Our bills were greater on a larger house. We paid our electricity bill regularly but still had one for £850 on leaving, while our water bill, negligible in a London flat, was hundreds of pounds on a

After an offer from a friend to rent a flat back in London, we decided to cut our losses and run. A week later, the difference in having the family together for an extra four hours each day outweighs all the greenery that the country can offer. But Humphrey will miss the chickens.

A wildlife oasis just a bird cry from the city

ome houses offer such a peaceful, secluded oasis close to the city centre that their owners get the best of both worlds — a country feel in the

Kevin and Judy Kane's Regency home. Spring Cottage, Edghaston, is just over a mile from Birmingham city centre. The house, on sale for £750,000, faces a huge pond, and its two acres of mature gardens are a haven for wildlife.

The couple have seen foxes, hedge-hogs, owls, sparrowhawks, a kingfisher and even an otter.

"We used to have a weekend cottage in the Lake District, but it was quite tying," says Mrs Kane. "Some people who visit us say it's quieter here than in the countryside because we don't get the motorbike scramblers and light aircraft that they do."

Her husband adds: "We didn't make enough use of the weekend cortage. We were using it only six times a year, and when we got there we'd be mowing lawns or doing repairs. When you've got a house like this you don't need a retreat. Our friends loved coming here and sitting in the gardens. But now I'm retired from my work as a property developer and our children have fled the nest, it's a bit big for two of us."

The five-bedroom house, which has a guest suite plus a former coach house that is now a cottage, is on the market with Knight Frank (01789 297735).

Another Edgbaston property, Beadle's Cottage, has also seen the city grow around it since it was built around 1700. Now for sale at £395,000 through Robert Powell (0121-454 6930), the cottage is named after the beadle who kept things in order for the nearby church. It has four bedrooms, four reception rooms, and a garden fringed with trees so one can forget that the city is just two miles away.

Knight Frank is also marketing Pinnerwood House at Pinner, Middlesex. 15 miles from Central London but surrounded by protected countryside and with two acres of grounds, including a tennis court and swimming pool. The property, just over a mile from Pinner station and about seven miles from the M1 and M25, is priced at £900,000 (01494

The agent is also selling 85 Deodar Road, Putney, which has a 100ft garden that runs down to a patio on the edge of

Putney Tube is a brief trot across a footbridge that spans the river, and the house is opposite the Hurlingham Club. The asking price is £950,000 (Tel 0171-824

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Funding methods may lead to exodus of competitors

NATIONAL Lottery funding for many of Britain's elite competitors is being held up because of bureaucracy, including the complicated form-filling needed to get the money for training and taking part in international events.

The issue will be raised when the House of Lords debates the National Lottery bill tomorrow with finance still not reaching a large number of athletes due to take part in the Winter Olympics.

Some sportsmen and women are seeking to represent Wales and Scotland in future rather than England. because lottery funding. announced in November 1996. is often more generous and more easily obtained.

Nigel Hook, of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), which represents the national governing bodies, said yesterday: "While sport welcomes the additional money, it also recognises the need to unravel some of the procedures surrounding the distribution of lottery money. A lot of bodies have expressed their dismay at the current

Craig Reedie, the chairman of the British Olympic Association (BOA), has spoken of the process being "unnecessarily

bureaucratic and cumbersome", pointing out that there is no sense in the four home country sports councils having entirely different distribution systems for revenue applica-tions operated under identical legislation.

Mike Jardine, the chief executive of the British Ski Federation, said that English skiers have not had any money towards preparing for the Olympics in February. "In fact, because we had no worldclass performance plan accepted, the British team were denied places to train at the national sports centre at Lilleshall."

He warned that Sophie Ormond, 17, "the most outstanding female prospect for years" and ranked in the top ten in the world this year, is training with the French team and may change nationality when she is 18.

In judo, Britain's most successful sport for the size of the team over the past seven Olympics, no funding will be forthcoming until January 25, although backdated to November 1.

Lesley-Anne Alexander, who chairs the British Judo Association, said the governing body did not have the



Tommy Yule, the weightlifter, trains in his garage

producing a document quickly for the world-class performance plan".

"However, the Sports Council has not facilitated the process. In addition, the fighters' ability to get money is directly dependent on their ability to fill in forms and this is a fairly alien activity to some

Triathlon has also had problems in completing the plan, which will now be heard in February. In the meantime, Ceris Gilfillan, an outstanding English prospect for the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, has switched to Wales, where funding has been easier to obtain.

In weightlifting, there has been the anomaly of 22-year-old twins, Tommy and Stuart Yule. Tommy, who is studying engineering science at Oxford University, is ranked second in Britain in the 108 kgs class. He gets no lottery support. Stuart has just graduated in science from Edinburgh University. He is ranked fourth in Britain in the 99 kgs class and is receiving £3,000 from the Scottish Sports Council. Tornmy said: "It is a bit strange. I just have to rely on the

generosity of my parents."

A spokesman for the English Sports Council said yesterday: "This funding has been a tremendous success. in a year, 24 organisations have been told they are being funded or aiready have been funded. We are taking sport to another level. We are not just involved in short-term gains."

"As a public body we have to be accountable for public funds and therefore we need to take precautions to see that

money is properly spent."
He pointed out that British sport has already benefited, with the national rowing team publicly praising the support after their success at the 1997 world championships.



Steve Young, the San Francisco 49ers quarterback, is sacked by Alfred Williams, the Denver Broncos tight end, during their match on Monday night. The 49ers had the last word, winning 34-17. Both teams have qualified for the National Football League play-offs

Three Russians suspended

THREE Russian swimmers have been suspended for two years for testing positive to an anabolic steroid after Fina, the sport's international governing body, yesterday turned

down their appeals. Vladimir Pyshnenko, Olga Kochetkova and Natalia Mecheryakova, all medalwinners at the European championships in August, had used metandienone metabolites. The punishments

are backdated to October 18, when the trio were tested at a training camp in Cyprus. A fourth member of the Russia squad, Alexei Koleshnikov, was suspended for three months for taking

carumins. His suspension begins on January I, excluding him from the world championships in Perth. Australia, and most of the World Cup series.
Had all four swimmers

tested positive for steroids. Russia could have faced suspension from all international competition for four years including the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000. Fina has the power to im-

such a penalty, under a rule introduced last year, if its testers detect four steroid users from one nation. [This does not apply if teroid users are detected by

their own member federation

although it could be enforced if a federation attempted a cover-up]. Pyshnenko, 27, a member of the world record breaking

4 x 200 metres freestyle team that won the Olympic title in Barcelona in 1992, Mecheryakova, 25, the European 50 metres freestyle champion, and Kochetkova, 18, a European Championships medley relay silver medal-winner, claimed that cake they had eaten had been spiked.

Fina shied away from its full powers: its rules allow it to impose a four-year suspensionon each of the steroid cases. A fifth swimmer, Olena Lapunova, of the Ukraine,

ending a hearing the same steroid. There have now been 31 positive steroid cases in swimming during the Nineties - 23

was provisionally suspended,

Record turn-out forecast

represented in Nagano, Japan, in February organisers say, making the 1998 Winter Games the biggest so far, beating the 67 countries who registered at Lillehammer, Norway in 1994. Kenya is the latest addition so the list and some 82 national Olympic committees have expressed a wish to take part, although a number of these are unlikely to be able to meet the minimum-qualification standards laid down.

Brazil reach semi-finals

The Football: Brazil claimed a Confederations' Cup semi-final place with a 3-2 win over Mexico in Riyadh yesterday. Brazil finished top of group A with Australia, beaten 1-0 by Saudi Arabia, second to also reach the last four. Mexico needed a draw to qualify and smidting Ramon Ramirez's goal a minute from time set up a farilling finale.

ECB chooses Lilleshall

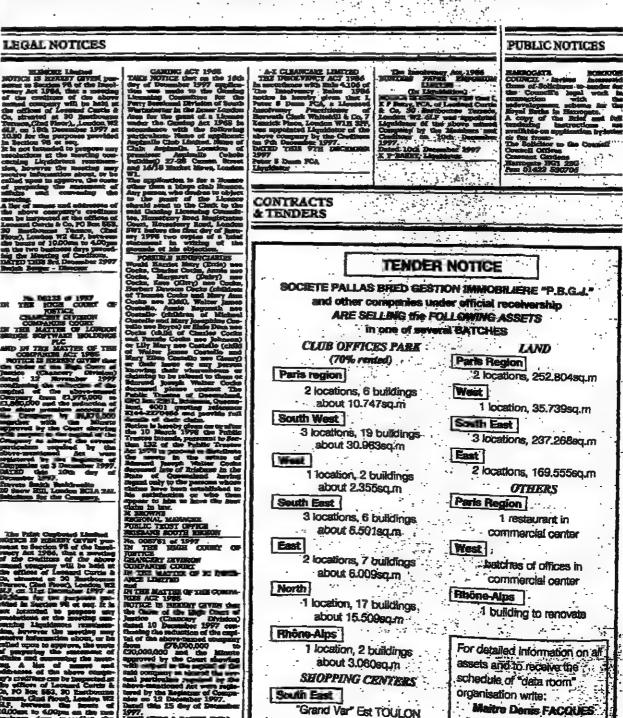
LET: The mutional ElC-million venire of excellence is likely to be built at Lilleshall. The England and Wales Cricket Board has confirmed the West Midlands site as its favoured venue for the National Cricket Centre which, it is hoped, will be the coaching headquarters for players of all ages, from youngsters right through to the Test squad.

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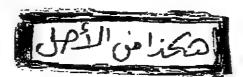


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Richard Evans assesses a report which advocates sweeping measures to encourage growth

Financial equation demands inventive solution

revised draft of the financial plan for British racing, which proposes radical solutions to the funding problems highlighted last week by Sheikh Moham-med, went before the British Horseracing Board (BHB)

The 54-page document, produced by a group chaired by Peter Savill, president of the Racehorse Owners' Association, is scheduled to be published next month - if the BHB can reach agreement. The causes of racing's financial plight will not surprise racing people; the same can-not be said of the likely reaction of politicians and public to the proposed solutions.

The report paints a familiar picture of the financial woes facing the sport. For every £100 of off-course betting turnover, £78 is returned to punters in winnings, £6.75 goes to the Government (in betting duty). Ell.71 is taken by betting shop overheads, £2.35 goes in bookmaker profits - leaving E1.19 for racing via the levy. The overhead cost of betting

through 9.000 betting shops is by far the highest in the world. leaving too little money for racing and Government. For very pound racing receives from betting, the Government takes £5.67 - nearly double the amount in Australia and three times the ratio in France and South Africa.

The low percentage of betting turnover returned to racing - 1.19 per cent - "is at the root of most of British racing's financial problems," according to the report. Of the nine major racing nations, Britain lies eighth when comparing owners' return from prizemoney with the cost of keeping a horse in training.

Whichever aspect of racing is reviewed, the overwhelming picture emerges of a badly underfunded industry which is too dependent upon its

PRINCIPAL FINDINGS

Government takes too much from betting compared to recing's return, yet the sport is powerless to change the financial equation.

☐ Racing needs an extra £150 million a year. Government should cut betting duly by 1.75 per cent — worth £80 million — and transfer money to levy. Racing should generate £25 million extra through self help.

 \Box Investment of £105 million would create more than 9,000 new jobs, stiract 2,400 new owners and 3,400 new horses. Bookmaker profits would rise by £85 million and direct government taxes by £85 million. ☐ Review of betting legislation — and deregulation to allow betting in shops and pubs. Racecourses should be allowed daily simulcast betting and amusement machine gambling to maximise revenue.

Other toxes and indirect benefits, such as reduced unemployment, would mean a 1.75 per cent duty out would be "at least revenue-neutral for the Government".

heritage and the patronage of non-resident owners, which is failing to meet the needs of the

Sheikh Mohammed's Gim-

crack speech last week underlined that fragility, but the key difficulty the BHB will face is convincing politicians of why they should be concerned about racing's financial needs. Racing spends just £2.6m a year on marketing itself, compared to about £20m in France and the United States, and £139m in Japan. The blueprint argues for a marketing budget of £14.25m on the grounds that

it would increase employment by 2,280, boost income by £25m and tax revenues by £5.8m. and attract 550 new owners. Walter Mitty would British owners recoup only

24 per cent of their keep and training costs and a target of a

> RICHARD EVANS Nap: Mister Blake (2.40 Bangor)

Stamina is Mister Blake's strong suit, so be should relish the extended four miles at Bangor inday. He won at the Weish course on his debut

NB: Boots Madden (2.50 Exeter)

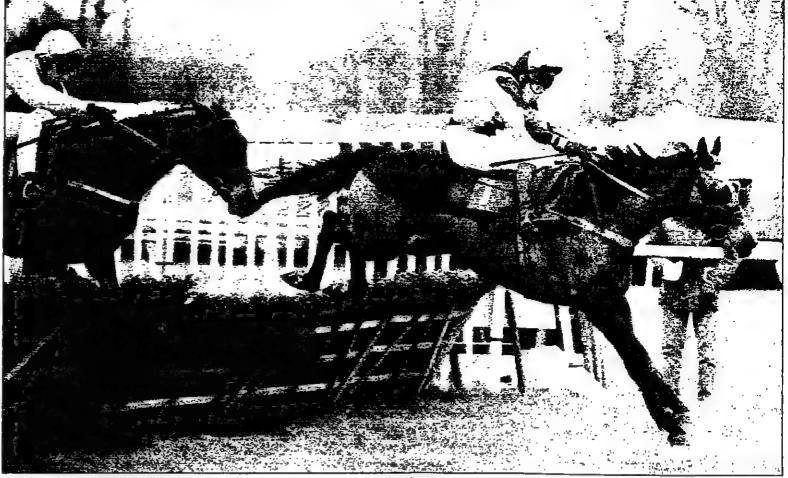
should be established. That would require £66m extra prize-money on top of the Worthy targets abound, but who pays? Not the punter,

who already contributes about Elbn a year via losing bets and betting duty, according to the er, who would pass on the cost to the punter. Racing has "extremely limited" opportunities to raise more money. Which leaves the Government in partnership with racing. Here is the crux of the

problem. Can the sport persuade a Government limiting cash for single parents and needs every penny for the National Health Service, to come to the rescue? Apparently, its leaders think they can. The mathematics are sim-

ple. A reduction in betting duty from 6.75 per cent to 5 per cent, with the 1.75 per cent being transferred to the levy, would release £80m for racing. £17m for greyhounds, and £20m for bookmakers. Racing would generate an extra £25m through self-help, including sponsorship, copyright income, the Tote - and deregulation of racecourses to allow betting and amusement machines in "racing clubs".

The difficulty is believing the conclusions of a KPMG



On the day the British Horseracing Board considered the sport's underfunding. Ainsi Soit II's winner's prize at Folkestone was just £2,301

report produced for the BHB last month into the effect of doubling prize-money and boosting marketing. It sounds would increase by £188m (excluding extra levy from in-creased betting), 9,300 jobs would be created, 2,495 new owners and 3,417 new horses would be attracted to the sport.

Betting turnover would increase by £500m because of increased field sizes, additional races and marketing to punters. Bookmakers profits would go up by £65m.

Government would benefit from £43m extra VAT and £25m extra betting duty from increased turnover. Other tax benefits and reduced unemployment would mean "it is likely that a duty cut of 1.75 per cent by Government would be at least revenue neutral".

So, if that analysis is correct racing will be £80m better off and bookmakers' profits will jump by a total of £85m without costing the Government a penny. What are the odds of sneaking that one past Gordon Brown?

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Breakdown of UK horserace betting turnover	Percentage of betting turnover returned to racing	% return to owners from prize money against training expen
Return to punter 78,00%	Germany14.84%	Japan90
General betting duty, 6.75%	USA 9.20%	South Africa
	Japan 9,48%	France
Levy 1.194	France 8.14%	USA
Overheads11.71%	South Africa 3,48%	Germany
Bookmaker profit	Australia3,00%	Britain
(Horseracing only),	Selfein 1 100.	treland

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2.10 Pearl Anniversary

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GDING: SOFT (CHASE COURSE); GOOD, GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES (HURDLES)

12.40 RED COAT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE

| 106 | SBEM AL MARKERS 580 (CD.S) (Backhouse Cont) D McCart 6-11-18 | B Hogan 20-5-03 DONTDRESSTORDERNER S (D.F.G) (DDFD Plans) R Hodges 7-11-9 | T Descorde 1420-03 BRUMON 19 (V.S) ? Hodner) 24 Mathemat 6-11-8 | P Horizo SBO-234 EVZO RUPO 13 (V.S) ? Hodner) 14 Mathematics 5-11-5 | J Backhola (S) FOR-652 | CARROLLS RODCK 14 (S) (C est la Ve Pres) C Mann 6-10-10 | J Mathematics 7-15-5 | MLUROS BROOK 14 (C,G) (M Lornes) J Backley 5-10-8 | D J Kavernagh 1950-04 | ERGOLN 6 (V.D.F.G.S.) Jác C Stotell) Mac A Stotell 7-16-8 (Tren) A Alexand PPSPAP ALTHERY ARISTOCRAT 40 (F Lloyd) F Lloyd 7-10-0 | C Ran (S) Ran (S) Logic mandican Abbyty Anstocol 9-2

BETTING: 11-4 Compressionationer 7-2 Sharmon, 4-1 Carrolls Rock, 5-1 Encolin, 13-2 Evezio Rullo, 7-1 olimni, 1998: KINTAVI 6-16-13 & Hogan (2-1 list) T Domesty 10 ran

Contrinsistantiment 13th and at 7 to Gallopung Guns in Handicap hundle at Luction (2m, good). Brusmon 12l 3rd of 8 to Riverbank Rose or handicap hundle at Bangor (2m 11, good to soit) Evezio Rufo 18th at 16 to South West Express in selling handicap hundle at Lucester (2m 4f 110vd, soit) Carrolle Rose for 3l 5m of 10 to Crown And Cushion in handicap hundle at Southwell (2m 4f 110vd, good). Exposite heat Asbertone 8th at 13-numer selling handicap hundle at Southwell (2m 4f 110vd, good). Exposite heat Asbertone 8th at 13-numer selling handicap hundle at Fakenham (2m, good). EVEZIO RUFO tasked to stay 2th miles last time and wild appreciate the drop in trip.

1.10 ASTBURY WREN HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,783: 3m) (5 runners)

BETTIME 2:5 Decar : Beeta 7-1 Princia, 9-1 Bell Stationy, 10-1 Babraik, 12-1 Buckbosse Buy 1995: FREDDE MARCE 6-11-0 C Lieuellyn (3-1 lw) N Twiston-Daves 7 cas

 $M_{\rm p} g = 2.7$

E SE

1.8

Deano's Beeno best Mentmore Towers 71 in 10-runner banducao hurde at Haydock (2m 6), soli) with Bateriak (14lb better off) 461 5th. Buckhousa Boy let in chase at Sandown (3m 110vd, good) 5th. Buckhousa Boy let in chase at Sandown (3m 110vd, good in soli), prevouchy 71 2nd oi 6 to Torover in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 44, good). Prussta 123 3rd oi 9 to Splendid Thyrae in bandicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 71 110vd, good to soff). DEANO'S BEANO is progressing well and hard to oppose

1.40 CLWYD NOVICES CHASE (£3,550: 2m 4i 110yd) (7 runners) 1205-31 RURNIT SPP 18 (D.F.G.S) (N. Mason (Farms) Ltd) & M. Motore 7-11-8 J Cultures (D.F.G.S) (N. Mason (Farms) Ltd) & M. Motore 7-11-8 J Cultures (D.F.G.S) (Accient Managers) R Boothering 9-11-2 L. Hanney (D.F.G.S) (Accient Managers) R Boothering 9-11-2 L. Hanney (D.F.G.S) (T.G.M.S.S) (T.G.M 1996. ARDLAD THE GALE 5-11-6 R Durwoody (4-7 tow) D Gaadelin 6 cm

FORM FOCUS

Burnt Imp heat Phar Echo 6I in 6-trainer novice chase at Newcastle (2m st. good) High Handed 471 6th of 17 to brito in novice (2m st. good) Light Handed 471 6th of 17 to brito in novice (2m st. good) south Listanen Gats 441 10th of haste 3 to 100 (2m st. 100 of good). Mountain Path 361 last of 5 to Madys Mantino an normal restrict at Scott (2m st. good) south; previously 2941 2nd of 11 in Supreme 10 to the contract of the contract (2m st. 100 of good). When Warbler 341 5th of 11 in Royal Event at novice chase at Scottanet (2m good) BURNET IMP was the bast of these over functies and should wan with a clear sound

COURSE SPECIALISTS

P Netser C to locate P respec to the	3. 36. 4	7 52 10 89 11 21	42.7 32.7 39.0 29.2 19.0	G Bradley T Dascombe D J Burchell A P McCoy G Towney W Marston	t0	25 26 18 45, 16 50	25.0 27.2 22.2 18.8 16.0
				Asco	t cr		ds

topological constant and the second constants.



FEWER racegoers will be able to attend Royal Ascot next year. Crowd capacity in the Grandstand and Silver Ring will be reduced by 20 per cent. The Royal Enclosure will be unaffected.

2.10 MAESFEN NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£2,306: 2m 1) (14 numbers)

1896: 976AAN 3-10-5 A P MicCoy (13-8 lm) M Pipe 14 sax

Admiral's Guest 71 2nd of 7 to Once More For Luck to selling hurdle at Liciossise (2m. soil) Affect The Lion 211 4th of 12 to Meadow Denoes in novice charming handle at Luciow (2m. good). Lifto 571 8th of 15 to Racing Hawk in novice selling hurdle at Uteneter (2m. 41 110yd, good). Lysander 64 12th of 19 to Nemoodal in novice selling hurdle at Uteneter (2m. 41 110yd, good) of Admiral's Guest (levels) 781 14th 2thanile 18t 6th of 16 to Pival Sab in salling hurdle at Luciow (2m. good) with Rathive's First (2to better off) lei0, inclain Nector 9441 3d of 8 to Supermick in selling hurdle at Hurston (2m. 11, good). Affectand 12t 5th of 12 to Circle Of Mages in 3yo novice selfing hurdle at Janston (2m. 11, good) with Admirayam (levels). 33 6th Impairs 40 18th of 16 to Virtuoso in 3yo novice turdle at Uteneter (2m. good). Bellower (2m. 10, good). Bellower (2m. 10, good). Affecting the great (2m. 11 10 16 to Virtuoso in 3yo novice turdle at Uteneter (2m. good). Bellower (2m. 10, good). Bell

MOUNI NECTAR has the best form on offer in a poor case

2.40 HALEWOOD INTERNATIONAL LAMBRINI HANDICAP CHASE (£4,104 4m 1f) (9 numers) | 190-411 SUDEOFIEL 23 (G.S) | U Michimus) J J D'Holl 8-11-13 ... A P MicCoy 190-411 SUDEOFIEL 23 (G.S) | U Michimus) J J D'Holl 8-11-13 ... A P MicCoy 190-412-11 TOP JAVALUS 39 (C.G.S) Mics V Thoma M Hande 10-11-12 ... M Green 190-412-11 TOP JAVALUS 39 (C.G.S) Mics V Thoma M Hande 10-11-12 ... M Green 190-412-13 (J. M. Green) P Bowen 9-11-6 ... M Green 190-42-13 (J. M. GOFF 16 F.S.) (J D'Holl 9) O'Holl 8-11-1 ... S Quesan 190-43 (J. M. GOFF 16 F.S.) (J D'Holl 9) O'Holl 8-11-1 ... S Quesan 190-43 (J. M. G

SETTING: 11-4 Statestrib, 3-1 Top Janualin, 5-1 Lay It Olt, 6-1 Reson, 7-1 Mistin Blake 18-1 Stannaphil, 12-1 Datas Marcraft 1-6-1 option 1996: PERIODE PRIDE 9-18-1 M Wildowson (5-1) M Harmond 10 cm

Siduotisii heat Muteal Agreement 61 in 7-rentur handleap chase at Ludtov (2m 31 110yd, good). Top Javaiin beat Ask Me Later 21/21 in 6-turner handleap chase at Uncoreter (3m 2t, soll). Glerdinn Princess 561 7th of 11 to Black Church in handleap chase at Uncoreter (2m 51, good). Kearo 51 2nd of 5 to Coverdate Laren in handleap chase at Towcaster (2m 61, good). Lay it 01 91 3nd of 9 to Dream Lessier in handleap chase at Fobsolove (3m 2f, good) with Sharmarphit (4th better off) 37 7nt. Mister Blake 111 5th of 9 to High Leinte in handleap chase at Flohingdon (3m, good) Deise Marshall beaten a destance 3rd of 8 to Young Kenny in novice chase at Relation (3m 11, good to 20th) L'Uorno Phu 361 5th of 10 to Dream Leader et handleap chase at Taminou (3m, good) DESE MARSHALL has been crying out for a real lest of stamma and should go close

3.10 BODFARE STUD HANDICAP CHASE (£4,104: 2m 4f 110yd) (6 runners)

1996. DISTINCTIVE 7-10-9 C Lieuchyn (5-1) M Williamin 8 cm

Steam Rossa head Temelo 151 in 4-mmen kondisso classe at Bangor (2m 41 110)d, good to solt). Brancheberry 41 2nd of 9 to Storn Ross position before at Ambre (2m, good to solt). Jymjern Johnny neck 2nd of 6 to Spring Gale in headscap classe at Ulimeter (2m 48, good). Bob Devani pulsed up in handscap chase at Worcester (2m 71 110)d, solt); previously 12 and of 15 to Tench Hill Lass in handscap chase at Worcester (2m 71 110)d, good to solf). Subtain basen a distance 3rd of 5 to Forest hory in novice chase at Bangor (3m 110)d, good to solf), previously beal Prussa neck in 13-morer handscap chase at Huntlegdon (2m 48 110)d, good). PYNAMAN JOHNNY was just in need of the ran at Universe and will take all the heading

3.49 DOLDFORD STUD INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT

1988 STORMS PEDISHE 4-11-4 5 Cores the last I Makes 14 mi

Bassey 54 Aft not 35 to Suraley Victories in HH list race at Leiden (2m, good). Buckation 93 3nd of 8 to Justin Marc in HH list race at Leiden (2m, good). Buckation 93 3nd of 8 to Justin Marc in HH list race at Africe (2m, good) with Buckation (levels) 256 11 fb. Julian. Desis galding rad-brother to Flat wiener Chromorellow Mo's 8oy 381 12et of 17 to Lady Rebects as NH list race at Minoration (2m, good). Name Best Friend besiden a distance 14th of 16 to Radios Howarishs in rational hourt Bat race at Hereford (2m 18, good). Bryman Lase, Home Supren more, stetur to a warring hundler and half-stetus to a warring cluster Durcation Lady 9191 fills of 14 to less Banter in NH Bat case at Chellenbarn (2m 10dd, good), opod to firm). Minory Corstanae, Handonice Saliko fills, out of hundless winner Memy Juna. Sharp Practices 271 11th of 14 to Pursymise in states NH file at at Follessione (2m 11 10dd, good). Take The Catch, Relief Phicher filly, out of the lightly-raced Take. The Verl. Woodly Scud S11 12th of 16 to Eddy's Soon in Philitat case at Warwick (2m, good to solf). BASSEY controlled a strong race lact firm and will had this oppier

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Gorna: good raced to firm in places

Tole: \$2 70, \$3.50, \$2.20, \$3.80 \$35-\$20.97 1.30 (2m 6) 110yd hdley 1 Millmount (R Thomton, 3-1 p-len/: 2 Caracol (3-1 p-len/; 3, Oustaquey (7-2), 8 ran, 16, 131 T McGovern Tole ES-40; £1.70, £1.10, £1.90 DF: £5.10, CSF-£11.47 Tricast: £29.09

22 Up (2m 5f ch) 1, 8ir Danss (D Bridgwater, 13-6 lavt; 2, Who Am (3-1)-3, Beng (33-1) 7 ran NR: Angelo's Double, Dut, 15 R Rowe, Tore £2 10, £1 30, £1.90 DF £3 50 CSF £6 74 2.30 (cm 81 10 yet help 1, Be My Mot (B Fenton, 10-1); 2. Old Deconcy (9-4 lay); 3. Fin Bot (7-1); 11 ran NR Cheely Charle 144, 154 D Grassel, Tote: £13,60; £2,40, £1,20; £1,70; DF: £29,50, Tno £19,60 CSF £34,24.

CSF 534 24: 01 1, Pegmarine UA McCarity 5-11; 2, Court Master (11-4), 3, Friendly Knight (15-8 tay) 7 rain 2, 10: Mis A Woodrow Tote 55 40; 52 80; 52 40 DF, 59 20 CSF 519 10 59:20 CSF C19 T0 3.30 (2m 11 110yd fat) 1, Merry Shot (R Farant, 9-2), 2, Bity Moonshine (14-1), 3, Pointed Remark (7-4 fat) 11 ran NR: Cloudy Bill SI, 121 Mrs J Piman, Tote 55 60; C2 T0, 12-60; C1 70, DF; 625-20. The 535-20 CSF 737-36

Going: good
1.10 (2m 11 hole) 1. Aal El Aal (6 Formey,
5-1), 2. Jaquese Gen (11-4 text, 3
Inchydoney Boy (12-1), 11 cm 5l, 6l P
Hobbs, Tote C5 30, 52 00, 51 60, 51 40
DF 55 50 Tho: 555 10, CSF 517 14
1.40 (2m 3l ch) 1. Jasson's Boy (R
Johnson, 10-11 tan, Temekeeper's top
rating) 2. Shimba Hills (11-2); 2. Noo's
Promise (5-2) 5 ran, 2% (4l, 2) Bradley
Tote 51,50 51 10, 53 20 DF 64 50 CSF
55 90
2. 10 (2m hole) 1, Askrat Invention (Gary 2.10 (2m hole) 1. Astrat invasion (Gary

2.10 (2m hole) 1, Astrat Invanion (Gaty Lyons, 4-1); 2, Proce De Berry (11-2); 3 Verde Luna (8-1) Play Games 9-4 lav. 8 ran. NR The Secret Grey 111. sh hd 7 Well. Fore: 94.00; 62.80, 61.20, 62.10. DF. 610.20 Tho 616.20. CSF 623.34 Thotal 6186.75 2.40 (2m 11 hole) 1, Sibenan Mystic (C Maude, 11-4 g-lav); 2. Nornar Lad (7-1), 3, Wadade (8-1) Pornre Secret 11-3 j-lav 8 can. 61 181 P Musphy Tote 54.40: 51.20. 62.10, 61.70 DF 61810 CSF 619.83, Tracast 51.22.65

E1938. Incast £122 bb 3.10 [3m 1] 110yd chy 1, Torduff Express (C Maude, 100-30); 2. Luncastram Jel (7-1), 3, Ah Shush (8-1). Briding Crop 11-far 12 ran 9, 1 \(\text{J} \) Phicholis. Tole £3-50. £2.60. £4.10. £2.90. DF. £27.70. Tho £4.20. CSF. £27.42. 249.00. GSF. 127.42 3.40 (2m 31 10)d hdtel 1, Studio Thirty (X Acpust. 7-1); 2. Lord Nitrogen (100-30 Lad), 3. Caello Arrow (9-1), 10 ran 15.1, 111 R Diclon Tote: \$5 10; \$1.30, \$1.50, \$1.50, \$2.70, DF-\$1.360, Trace \$152.10, CSF: \$30.74, Treast: \$203.34

Placepot: \$159.90

Musselburgh

Going: good 12.45 (2m hdie) 1. Baher (Miss R Clerk, 8-1). 2. Thermum (11-8 las), 3. Farraday (5-1). 7 ran 7, 3. S (Clark) Totae (27-10, 61 50, 51.40, DF: 65 00 CSF (217 78 1.30 (3m chi 1, Royel York (P Carberry, 2-1): 2. Colistown Boy (20-1): 3. Forever Grey (65-1). Sherravogh (N 4-6 tax, 9 ren. 251, 24 G Richards. Tota. 22-50; 51-50. 62-50, 12-60. DF 521-30. Tho 138-00. CSF 124-69

(SF 124)89
1.50 (2m 4f Indie) 1, Little Duke (Mr M Beschume, 4-1); 2 Prepriorr Haze (10-1); 3, Victor Lascio (10-1); Steether Jack (4m); 5-4 (av. 14 mm, 19, 3)-1 Mrs S Bredbume Tote, 29,50; 52,40; 63,40; 63,00 DF 631,20 Tm, £144,00, CSF; £3,80. 2.20 (2m 4f ch) 1. Montrave (S Taylor, 5-1); 2. Purtan (8-1); 3. Bellyfre (9-4 tay) 5 tan Hd, '4f J Goldle Tote (5.20, £1 60 £1.90 DF £12.20 CSF £29.60 2.50 (2m ch) 1. Mester Bayard (Mr M Brackume, 7-4 tas), 2. Ut Hygene (14-1); 3. Teapy'n alich (8-1) 8 ran 20, 114 P Monteth Tota: 23 10; 11.60, 23.10, 21.50, DF: 208.00 CSF: 224.13 Treast: 2150 48 07:13000 CSF:12013 170001 210 48
3.20 (3m hdto) 1, Nigel's Lad M Foster,
10-11 lavi. -2. Major Hants (7-2); 3.
Lintainen (9-9) 4 sen. NR. Sten's Your
Men. 8. 30. P Hostam Tole. \$1.80. DF
52.40 CSF \$4.08.

EXETER

THUNDERER

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES)

1.20 OSPREY CLAIMING HURDLE

1 4137 1D7ALLY YOURS & NY, C.S. M Pipe 4-11-7 ... & Massie 2 58-6 K0NG OF THE BULES 34 J Nigh 5-10-11 ... J Colloy 3 0448 SHAHRANI 8 (C.F) M Pipe 5-10-11 ... J Colloy 4 5062 10P SIGPPER 22 (DD, C.S. V & Reamon 5-10-11 Mr J Tizzard (5) 5 3812 WEATHER WISE 9 (BF.D, G) W 6M Munes 5-18-11 R Dumwood 6 8-66 MISS NIGHT OWL 34 R First 5-10-9 ... J Frost

1.50 MERLIN HOVICES CHASE

7 8/P- HANN Libit 285 M Coombo 9-11-2 Mr & Fizyestein 8 240: HE FLES BY 103/HT 1009 Mass H kingin 6-11-2 J F Titely 9 722: Mr THE BLOOD 11 (B.S.) P violate 6-11-2 R Duminoody 10 34P- LIDBICAL STEP 285 D Gandollo 7-11-2 J Prost 16 64-2 PEINYMINDOR PRINCE 12 (S) R Frost 8-11-2 J Prost 12 43-0 PROVE THE POINT B2 Mrs P Dunised 4-10-9 P Holley 3-1 Julienes, 7-2 Etudient Equature, 5-1 in The Blood, 11-2 Militarin Review. 13-2 Ambleside, 12-1 He Flies by Hight, Pannymoor Parice, 14-1 others

2.20 ROECHST ROUSSEL PANACUR E 8 F MARES ONLY MH HOVICES HURDLE (\$3,706. 2m 3i 110yd) [16]

.706. 2th 3f 110yd) (16)

1 SS BALLY LERA 21 P Rocked 5-10-18 ... S Barrough
2 GUDS OF BARY H Herete 7-10-10 ... J F Tidey
3 SD DASY 28 (BF) Mr. J Pirman 4-10-10 ... R Farrerii
4 4054 FOLESCLAVE 23 J King 5-10-10 ... J Culloy
6 OF RUMER SEMERT 12 J Editor 6-10-10 ... P Heite
4 33- HOT 'N SALCY 251 J Lettor 6-10-10 ... P Heite
4 33- HOT 'N SALCY 251 J Lettor 6-10-10 ... S McNevill
1 55 ROLAN LEGEND 24 Mr. S Williams 4-18-10 ... Septim Machel 15:
1 100- IT'SNOTSIMPLE 249 (G) R Froat 5-10-10 ... A Thomston
1 3040 MAYSENDE LADY 21 P Hotols 4-10-18 ... Mr. Williams (7)
INYSTERE N Balley 4-10-10 ... Mr. Williams (7)
INYSTERE N Balley 4-10-10 ... Mr. Williams (7)
INYSTERE N BARTON AND 18 Small 7-10-10 ... Mr. Williams (7)
3-45-30P SAFFRON AND 18 Small 7-10-10 ... Mr. Williams (7)
VMLLS VALLE J King 7-10-10 ... Mr. E Byrne C
1 Douga 4-1 Daty 7-1 Kindford Tira, 8-1 Fringe Booght, Mysters, 12-1 Jan 7-2 On Denna, 4-1 Datey 7-1 Xenthord True, 8-1 Frange Benefit, Alystem, 12-1 Tara Gale 74-1 Bally Lica, Foleschine, Maybridge Lady 16-1 others

2.50 EDIMBOURG HANDICAP CHASE (£4,693, 2m 71 110yd) (9)

9 243- MOZE DDY 2769 (6,5) R Freet 12-10-0 J Frest 9-4 Begts Madden, 7-2 Thermal Warner, 4-1 Malvood Casile, 11-2 Crowell Lad. 13-2 Feb 21 Cats, 7-1 Feels Errard 12-1 Brave Highlander, 16-1 others.

3.20 HENRIETTA KNIGHT BIRTHDAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,839. 2m 2f) (6)

11-5 The Braver 3-1 Walton's Dusling 7-2 Heart, 4-1 Blaze Ol Song 18-1 Queen Of The Suit, 16-1 Dialo

3.50 HARRIER HANDICAP HURDLE (E2,982: 2m 2f) (5)

5 1.0- RICH LIFE 221 (OLF.C.S.) R Balon 7-10-5 N Williamson 7-4 Bodd Statement, 11-4 Generalogs, 3-1 Lets Br Frank, 4-1 Arcted Express, 25-1 Ruch Life

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSERS: Macs. H. Ampht. 34 senters from 114 tunitets, 29.5%, 0. Sherwood, 5 from 19, 26.3%, M. Pipe, 76 nom 294, 25.9%, J. Gifford. 6 from 31, 19.4%, M. Henderson, 5 from 26, 19.2%, P. Hobbs, 26 from 137, 19.0%.

JDCKEYS. R. Donwoody, 35 services from 140 tides, 25.0%, J. Tilley, 9 from 40, 22.5%, P. Hobbs, 12 from 57, 17.9%, C. Maude, 14 from 63, 16.9%, J. Frest, 20 from 145, 13.6%, M. Fazgerald, 15 from 111, 19.5%.

IIUNICERED FIRST TIME. There are no horses blinke ad to

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

1.00 Prime Example. 1.30 Once More For Luck. 2.00

Timekeeper's top rating 2.30 DISTANT STORM.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

(£3,084: 3m 11 110yd) (8 runners) 1 4-LF DESPERATE DAYS 8 (5) F Noto 8-10-12 T Reed 97.
2 22/3 FEELS LIKE GOLD 11 (5) 6 Rechards 9-10-12 B Haroma (3) 1724
3 -600 GALE FORCE 16 F Beaumont 6-10-12 R Supple - 4 264F MERADID 2 P Chesbrough 7-10-12 A S Smith - 5 6-2 PRIME EVANPLE 37 M Todanuter 6-10-12 P Carbarry 105 6-6-56 FRUMERTY 30 / Lumb 5-10-11 G Lee 7 3650 SUL FISSO 14 Mrs 5 Ernet, 5-10-11 R Williamson (5) 80 81-3 CLARASELL 23 (G) J Cheston 6-10-7 B Storrey 120

1,30 RAFFYARD HOUSE SELLING HURDLE

(£1,954: 2m 3i) (10) ARCHIE-T P Boaumont 4-10-12 B Gristian (5)

DB BLEE LUGANA 235F N System 5-10-12 R Supple
350 HGSHRILD PET 7 C Grant 4-10-12 G McCommack (5)

D KAMASPIOA 93 J Howard Journan 6-10-12 A 5 Smith

D LAW DESIGNER 14 5 Bell 5-10-12 N Johnson 5 D LAW DESIGNER 14 5 860 3-10-12
6 QPD MENDO WHO 14 F P.100 5-10-12
7 2-21 OMCE MORE FOR LUCK 7 (S) M Revolvy 6-10-12
8 0-PD THE OPERATOR 7 6 Records 6-10-12
8 PU DAWN'S GPL 9 1 Humes 4-10-7
10 FO MATIVE SUNG 7 W Storey 4-10-7 2-5 Once More For Luck 8-1 Highlield Pet, Aziashda, The Operator, 9-1 others

2.00 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP CHASE

[\$2,5/0: 2m 3f] (5)

1 11-1 JUDICIAL RELD & (8,CD,F,E.S.) N Tinkin 3-12-0 R Garridy

20F1U MAR PUDGE 18 (CD,F,0.S.) M Soversoy 10-11-1

3 36S31 CUMBERILAND BLUES 8 (F,G) A J Lockwood 8-11-1 (7a)

MESS A Decided

4.4460 REVE DE VALSE 9 (C,F,6.S.) R Johnson 10-18-5 K Johnson 117

5 24-3 KUREMASTINUS 23 (C,S.) Mrs S Smain 6-10-3 R Wilderson (S)

2-1 Cumbin land Blues, 11-4 Azrenastino Judicial Field Mi Fludge, 8-1 others

2.30 CATTERICK RACE CLUB 1998 AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,066, 2m 3l) (6)

3.00 GARTH NOVICES CHASE (£2,889- 2m) (4) 1 421 SHIMMS EDGE 25 (CD.F.G) T Exceptly 5-11-5 . L. Wyer 2 1/50 CADEAUX PREMIERE 20 (D.F) 0 Smith 6-10-12 P Niven 3 70-P FORBES 34 J Horsen Johnson 5-10-12 P Coherry 4 1/33 MRSTER GLOW 18 (D.F) Mr Exceptly 6-10-12 P Coherry 1-19 Strong Edge 15-8 Nivester Glow 12-1 Carbona Pretront 32-1 Forbes

3.30 HUTTON WANDESLEY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,066: 2m) (10)

5-2 Safloping Guns, 7-2 Perpensal Light, 11-2 Lomback Lady, 13-2 Point Only, 7-5 Lord Of The Rings, 8-1 Most Warked, Lay The Starte, 16-1 others. **COURSE SPECIALISTS**

TRAMERS T Easterby 8 venners from 20 numers 40.0% Airs M Reveloy, 22 from 98, 22.4% N Tinkter, 5 from 24, 20.8% W McKesnen 3 from 15, 20.0%, J J Ousne 6 from 34, 17.6% JOCKEYS: P Niver, 26 winners from 90 rides, 28.9%, A 5 Smith, 17 from 67-25.4%; M Motioney 5 from 30-16.7%, R Garrary 14 from 68-15.9%, P Carbatry, 5 from 34, 14.7%, T Reed, 11 from 84-13.1%

Ladbroke weights

SHADOW LEADER, the Champion Hurdle second favourite, and Aidan O'Brien's Theatreworld head the weights announced yesterday for next month's Ladbroke Hurdle at Leopardstown. Commanche Court, the latest Triumph Hurdle winner, heads the sponsor's market at 10-1, while Alabang, the Maurice Camacho-trained gelding, is 12-1.

Smith summons Elliott as injuries take toll

HAVING conceded 15 goals in their previous four away games, it is evident where Derby County are going Wrong, and the difficulties facing Jim Smith, the manager, in rectifying the problem were compounded when Igor Stimac, the talismanic captain, declared himself unfit for the FA Carling Premiership game against Newcastle United tonight. Smith, consequently, is without his entire

first-choice back three. Christian Dailly and Jacob Laursen are also injured and Smith has halted the loan transfer of Steve Elliott to Carlisle United. Elliott, 19. with two Coca-Cola Cup games to his name, was expecting to make his debut for Grimsby Town in the Nationwide League second division on Saturday. He may find St James' Park this evening a little livelier.

The alternative for Smith is to switch to a flat back four and reinforce his midfield.

ALAN HUDSON, one of the

finest if ultimately unfulfilled talents of English football in

the past 25 years, was fighting for his life last night. He was

in a stable but critical condi-

tion in a London hospital

after having a blood clot

removed from his brain, and

with a shattered pelvis, after

Hudson, 46, had apparently

stepped off the pavement at

10.30pm on Monday after

leaving the Sports Writers'

Association awards, and the

former Chelsea, Stoke City

and Arsenal player then un-derwent 14 hours of brain

like he was going to pull through," Alan Jr. his son.

said on BBC Radio 5 Live. "I

had a phone-call at lam and

have been at the hospital

since. Me and the family sat

in the chapel praying to God

At one point it didn't look

he had been knocked down by

a car in east London.

By RICHARD HOBSON

this area in a Coca-Cola Cup tie against Newcastle last month, United winning 1-0 through a goal by Tomasson, and the absence of Stimac allows Mauricio Solis, the Costa Rican, to feature as a third player from outside the European Community. Attention at the training ground yesterday centred on

Sturridge: content

By ROB HUGHES

for the first time in my life. He's not fully recovered, but they have stabilised the bleed-

ing, so it looks as if He has

Glenn Hoddle, the England

coach, paid tribute to Hudson

last night, and added: "The

thoughts and prayers of everyone in football are with

Alan Hudson and his family."

Hoddle also described Hud-

son as one of the outstanding

players of his era, a thought

that had previously been sug-

gested by Sir Alf Ramsey, the

former England manager,

who, when Hudson was an

apprentice footballer, said:

He had, by then, defied medical fears that, because of

painful shins, he would never

play the professional game. He did, for Chelsea, then for

boy can achieve."

There is no limit to what this

pulled something out."

Dean Sturridge, who is considering an invitation to play at Derby. for Jamaica early next year and make himself available for the World Cup. "It is a very difficult decision. My mum and dad were both born in Jamaica and I am very proud of that," Sturridge said in his

been to Jamaica. Sturridge was less cagey when asked about his commitment to Derby after speculation about a move to Everton. He asked for a transfer last summer, but no club met Derby's valuation of £7 million and he eventually signed

thick Birmingham accent. He

admitted, rather sheepishly.

that he has never actually

There were some things I was not sure about towards the end of last season but they have been sorted out," Sturridge, who had questioned the club's ambition, said. "I think we are close to being a very, very good team and I want to

Germany in 1975.

91 times, he succeeded in 73.3

per cent of what he attempted

and he did that by playing a

more inventive game than

most Englishmen had the

imagination or the sense of

freedom to exploit. Hudson,

however, was given only one

more cap by Don Revie, who

mistrusted his indisciplined

lifestyle, and possibly mis-

on the ball nevertheless won

him armies of admirers, is

now in the fight of his life.

There are many hoping that

he will defy the fears of

doctors in a second, much

greater fight, and return to his

more recent job as an analyst

Hudson, whose sweet touch

trusted his flair.

Two non-league sides will Hudson critical after accident ton, Hudson progressed to make one of the finest England debuts, against West He made a contribution to 73 moves, he touched the ball

> Martens League Southern division, are at home to Scunthorpe United, with the prize of a tie against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park in prospect, while Emley take on Lincoln City at Huddersfield Town's McAlpine Stadium with West Ham United awaiting the

than 2,000 supporters packed into their tiny New Manor ground. The capacity has been reduced on police advice after crowd trouble during the first game, but likeston insisted on retaining home advantage rather than switch the game to either Pride Park or Meadow

be part of it I am not interested in Everton or anybody else because I am happy

The pace of Sturridge and Paulo Wanchope through what used to be described as the inside-forward channels will pose the biggest threat to Newcastle this evening. Although Smith wants to rest Wanchope in the near future, the prospect of releasing him against Darren Peacock, Philippe Albert and Stuart Pearce is likely to prove irresistible.

Newcastle have taken just a single point from the past three matches and that against Barnsley, the bottom club, Although Ian Rush con-firmed his return to fitness with a goal for the reserves on Monday, Kenny Dalglish, the manager, is expected to name an unchanged side for the third successive game. Newcastle lie in ninth place, 15 points behind Manchester United, but will climb above Derby into seventh spot with victory tonight. They can afford nothing less.

be attempting to follow Stevenage Borough's example against Cambridge United on Tuesday and win FA Cup second-round replays, knowing that victory will guarantee them huge pay-days against FA Carling Premiership opposition in the third round in

Ilkesion Town, of the Dr

will have more

Mickelson lacks drive to win

JOHN HOPKINS



on a young American with major problems

blessed with so many attributes as Phil Mickelson, who appears to have it all. He has a toothy smile as wide as the Rio Grande, a film star's looks and the game to establish himself as a regular winner of a major champion-ship. No one since Severiano Ballesteros at his peak has played so many outrageously imaginative strokes from around the green. Mickelson has won II tour

naments and played twice in the Presidents Cup and the Ryder Cup. It may be harsh to say it, then, of a player who only turned professional in 1992, but suddenly he has the look of a man who has underachieved. Mickelson has not moved on as he should have done.

The rise of a new genera tion of champions in 1997 has brought this bome. There is Tiger Woods, who is not yet 22, Justin Leonard, 25, David Duval, 26, and from Europe, one of the fastest-rising of all, Lee Westwood, 24. At 27, Mickelson is in this age group, but as another year draws to a close he is not one of its leaders.

Mickelson first came to prominence on this side of the Atlantic at the 1991 Walker Cup, when he played a memorable stroke at Port Marnock's short 15th. This difficult but beautiful hole by the sea has an elevated green and, for his second shot, Mickelson needed to loft the ball 15 feet into the air from a bare lie to get it on to the green and stop it near the hole. For a degree of difficul-ty, it was a 9.9 shot. When Peter Alliss, who

was commentating on tele-vision, realised what Mickelson was planning, he said that he could not believe his eyes. "He's an idiot to try it." Alliss said. Mickelson, however, full of the brayado of youth, played it perfectly. nipping the ball from the thin torf and stopping it two feet from the hole.

After demonstrating strokes such as this and Winning a professional tournament while still an amateur, Mickelson turned



professional and signed con-tracts worth £1 million, in-cluding one for £350,000 annually from a club

What has become evident, however, is that while Mickelson can win at will on the West Coast of the United States, he can do no such thing anywhere else. Only one of his 11 tour victories have come on a course east of the Mississippi.

in the Million Dollar Chall-enge in South Africa earlier this month. Mickelson led by two strokes after 54 holes, but nished two strokes behind

Professional golfers are the models on which amateurs and club players base their game. The top players are not supposed to err in areas of the game on which their reputations are built. This past year, for example, Colin

Montgomerie, who is re-nowned for being one of the

straightest drivers in the

world, has been anything.

but. By the same token, it is

said that Mickelson is a

a couple during the Ryder

Cup at Valderrama that he

should have made, and took

three putts on the 72nd hole

in South Africa, thereby re-

'Suddenly, he has acquired the look of a man who has underachieved?

lanky left-hander seems particularly vulnerable to lanses in concentration. He is not in contention for major championships often enough and, when he is, he ien makes a m best examples of this failing came in the past two US PGA Championships. Last year he led by four strokes after 36 holes and finished eighth; this year he was only one stroke off the lead at halfway and finished 29th.

ducing his winnings £500,000. His rounds also have a Another limp finish came disturbing tendency to get

worse during tournaments. His average position after 18 holes in events in the US this year was thirteenth; after 72 give up?

One school of thought sugsts that Mickelson shares characteristics with Greg Norman, one being that both have, or have had, loose swings. Norman has addressed this and, at 42, is swinging better than ever. Mickelson has yet to make

any such change.
An imp of mischief woners whether they believe in Ben Hogan, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus did! There is a degree of "they only love me for my looks", about the pair of them.

Mickelson walks along a fairway with his head up, a smile on his face, aware of Justin Leonard, for instance, whose eyes are focused sharply on the ball and the fairway or green ahead of him. One cannot resist concluding that while Mickelson may be all business, Leonard, the Open champion, is

Nomadic Brighton yearning for home

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

or so miles from Plough Lane inconvenient, but one club would love to be in their shoes. Supporters of Brighton and Hove Albion packed a public meeting on Monday, hoping for news of an end to their club's exile at Gillingham. 75 miles from home.

Groundsharing at the Priestfield Stadium, after the demise of the Goldstone Ground, sold by a previous board of directors to pay off debts, has been disastrous. Sales of a Goldstone Ground memorial video are outstripping those of the Spice Girls in Sussex, but supporters are reluctant to travel to the Medway for "home" matches.

The team that avoided demotion from the Nationwide League third division last season on the strength of a run of home victories, roared on by five-figure crowds, has won only once in front of average gates of 1.600 in Kent, and finds itself next-to-bottom of the league.

"The support at the Goldstone was a major factor in our getting out of trouble last year," Steve Gritt, the manager, said. "We need that again. Getting back to Brighton is a

As well as the rent payable to Gillingham, the fall in gare

£900,000 last season has forced the release of the five highest-paid players, including Mark Morris, the influendefender. "It's not an exaggeration to say that the livelihood of this club depends on getting back [home]," Bob Pinnock, the club's financial

director, said. Plans for a multi-use community stadium are under discussion, but a more urgent requirement is a temporary home in the Brighton area. The club has targeted Withdean Stadium, but new floodlighting and seating will be required, and residents of the quiet, leafy neighbourhood

already are concerned. The club has proposed parkand-ride schemes and litter patrols to forestall objections, and has received support from the local press and, more importantly, the council, something denied the club's previous regime.

Ivor Caplin, the MP for

Hove, said: "I've been encouraged by comments from both parties that they believe it is important to bring the Albion back to the site that is best, and the only one that works is Withdean." Even so, planning processes being what they are, Brighton are unlikely to be rehoused before the beginning of next season.

Sedloski to cost Atkinson £1.75m

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ing over as the manager of Sheffield Wednesday last month - and once again he has looked abroad to strength-

Sweden international. Niclas

Sedloski, 23, returned to Macedonia yesterday for his wedding on Saturday and will miss Chelsea's FA Carling Premiership visit to Hillsborough. Graham Mackrell, Wednesday secretary, said: "Our game against Newcastle United [on January 10] may be the first one when he is eligible to play for us."

Clubs are not allowed to

en his squad. Having already paid IFK Gothenburg £750,000 for their

Alexandersson, Atkinson has agreed a fee of £1.75 million with Hajduk Split for Goce Sedloski. Wednesday have agreed terms with the player and his club after he passed a medical, but could have to wait up to a month for the centre half to make his debut while a work permit is obtained.

League for replaying contro-

matches on their giant video

incidents during

Sedloski has played regularly for Macedonia and Wednesday are confident that there will be no problem in obtaining the permit.

Bolton Wanderers may be punished by the Premier

WIMBLEDON might find revenue to a club that lost RON ATKINSON has made screens at the Reebok

show contentious action nor anything that may undermine the authority of the referee, but during Bolton's 3-3 draw against Derby County on Sunday, one player urged Uriah Rennie, the referee, to change his mind after seeing a replay on the screen.

The League can only act if Rennie or the match observer includes the incident in their report. "It has to be brought to our attention officially and if it is mentioned then we are dutybound to take it further," a league spokesman said. "That may well result in some form of disciplinary action."

Ray Harford has made his first signing as Queens Park Rangers manager by agreeing to pay £250,000 for George Kulscar, the Bradford City midfield player. The Australia international has signed a three-year contract at Loftus ☐ Manchester United learnt

yesterday that the Amsterdam Arena has been provisionally selected as the venue for the European Cup final on May 20. The Cup Winners' Cup final will be held at the Rasunda Stadium in Stockholm on May 13, while Parc des Princes in Paris will host the Uefa Cup final on May 6.

SCHOOLS SPORT

Parents cry foul over cancelled tour

CRANLEIGH SCHOOL have cancelled their rugby tour of South Africa this summer because of the publicity surrounding the violence in the game against Eastbourne College on December 6.

Parents, who had already raised more than £2,500 for the three-week tour, the climax of the boys' sports career at Cranleigh, are "very upset" by the action taken by Neil Bennett, the first-team coach, and supported in a letter sent by

Guy Waller, the headmaster. The decision follows widespread concern at the increase of foul play and bad language in sports events at independent schools. Last week, the sports sub-committee of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) circulated guidelines to schools urging them

to act against bad behaviour. After the match, there were apologies to By JOHN GOODBOOK

the Eastbourne coaching staff from Cranleigh parents, the headmaster and also Bennett, who at one point went on to to the pitch to calm down one of his players. Eastbourne won 18-12 and are unbeaten in 24 consecutive matches since losing to Cranleigh in December 1995. However, John Hume, an Old

Cranleighan and father of one of the flankers on December 6, has written to The Times saying: "The first incident was an Eastbourne player's offensive racist remarks to the Nigerian-born Cranleigh winger. Unfortunately that brought about an immediate reaction which caught the referee's eye. There were other such incidents, both verbal and physical to which Cranleigh regrettably reacted. Eastbourne would have done better to

direct their energies to crossing the line rather than abusing their opponents as no game is truly won on penalties."

Hume, who emphasised that he did not condone the violence, added yesterday: "I agree that if you are abused you should turn the other cheek, but regrettably life is not like that. My son told me that he was punched in the face during the game. "I feel the tour should be allowed to go ahead. The punishment does not fit the

trime. That match has been blown out of all proportion. Many boys have played together for five years at Cranleigh and there have been no other complaints." He pointed out that the previous Tuesday there had been a "very hard game" against Maritzburg College of Natal and there were no complaints. No one was available from Cranleigh yesterday to comment.

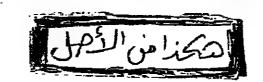
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BOXING: NO EXPENSE SPARED IN BID TO PROMOTE BRITISH WORLD CHAMPION ON US DEBUT

Hamed receives star treatment

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN BOXING CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

NASEEM HAMED'S campaign to build a reputation in the United States is rolling along nicely. Two of the biggest names in boxing and entertainment. Muhammad Ali and Michael Jackson, will be at ringside here on Friday to see the man from Sheffield defend his World Boxing Organisation featherweight title against Kevin Kelley.

Ali is Hamed's idol and Jackson a personal friend. The two celebrities should provide the imprimatur that Hamed needs to convince New Yorkers that he is one of the world's leading boxers. Harned said yesterday: "I'd be so pleased if Ali comes.
If there's anybody I'd love to be there, it would be him. I just can't believe what the press are saying about Ali. saying that Naz says he's better than Ali.

"The guy's my idol, I look up to him as an inspiration. If they ask me who is the best of both of us, I've got to say my opinion. I've got to say I can box five different ways. I'm not saying blatantly I'm better than him. He's my idol. He's what I look up at and see and learn off.

The guy's a living legend."

This week, HBO, the leading sports and entertainment cable television company in the US, which has signed a multimillion-dollar deal with Hamed, will intensify its advertising campaign for Hamed's bout at Madison Square Garden.

HBO spent \$600,000 last week advertising nationally and this week the expenditure will reach \$1 million. The company is hoping that if Hamed, who is shown on hoardings with gloves on fire, does not quite ignite interest, he will "spark" New York boxing fans.

Two 50-foot billboards featuring Hamed dominate Times Square. Prince Nascem Hamed is over here to do business. Business with HBO," the one looking down on Christmas shoppers streaming up Seventh Avenue from Macy's reads. The other hoarding shows Hamed with Roy Jones, Oscar de la Hoya - two of the best boxers in the world - and Junior Jones, who will be Hamed's next opponent in March. All are signed to HBO.

Hamed and his burning gloves can also be seen on the side of telephone kiosks and buses. In Los Angeles, his face covers the tall wall on Sunset Boulevard. Seth Abraham, the president of HBO, said: "We are very excited to have Naz. We are rolling out a campaign in which you would think Naseem Hamed is running for President. As this is his first appearance in the United States, we are making a very big deal."

Having provided the ideal conditions and the perfect opponent in Kelley, a New Yorker who has a big reputation but, being past his best,



Hamed shows the style during training that he hopes will win over the American public when he defends his title on Friday

eminently beatable, Abraham took a line from George Cohan, the farmous" vaudevillian' of Yankee-Doodle Dandy fame, and said: "If you can't make it in New York then

you are not going to make it anywhere else in America."

Abraham added: "It's going to take some time to establish

don Westlercot 84-82; Cotswold bt Farriord 82-70. Zame text: Cambridge Park bt Mote valley 108-59; king Gaorge Field bt Eurobridge 81-84; Croydon bt Cychera 79-82. femple bt Donynge 86-80. Zame eleven: Wey Valley bt Echam 88-58; Whiteknights bt Loodon Valle 92-72; Camberley bt Rushmoor 86-79. Longmeadow bt Rivermead 107-87. Longmeadow bt Rivermead 107-87. Dentord Stone Lodge to Deangale Ridge 88-78, Royal Truthridge Wells bt North Kent 108-60. Zone thinteen: Worthing bt Gestions 88-88; Egerton Park bt Langley Sports 108-48; Eastbourne bt Westlerch 77-69. Zone fourteen: Benster Park bt Arun 99-77; Solem bt Five Rivers Park bt Arun 99-77; Solem bt Five Rivers Park bt Arun 99-77; Solem bt Five Rivers Park bt Arun 99-77; Solem bt Five Rivers 108-87. Donyber bt Wellworthy 89-45; Moortheer bt Bournamouth 90-71, Zone steleent: Christop bt Victiona (Street) 94-73. Zone satteent: Torbey by Torquey 94-71; Isca bt Europuth Meyflower 82-55, Plymouth CS bt West Cornwall 91-71.

Newquay of Plymouth Mayloner & Plymouth CS bi West Comwall 91-71

Women's World Cup

CRICKET

England v Ireland

PUNE (England won loss) England best iteland by 208 runs

PMGLAND

S Redfern, C Taylor, "K Smithles. L MacLeod, k Leng and M Reynard did not

BOWLING McDoneld 10:1-41-0; Prat 4-0-40-0; Spence 5-0-39-0; O'Nell 10:1-34-1. Greatey 8-0-51-1, Siggs 7-0-49-1; Shifington 6-0-52-0.

IRELAND

FALL OF WICKETS 1-72 2-85, 3-193

C Edwards not out

British c Dawson b O'Nells.

B Danels c Prait b Greeley

S Metcatte at Dawson b Biggs

J Cessar not out

Erhas (b 6, ib 12, w 10 nb 3)

Total (3 wkts, 50 overs)

prize-fight will not establish his credentials. If he wins, it's an ongoing effort. All we can do is advertise and promote; the man anyone like him here before. [Hechas to fight. "This week we'll find out from tor! Camacho was an entertainer, ticket sales and from the American but he didn't really have the ability

Hamed. He is not a household

name in the United States and one

boxing community if they spark to the man. We have picked him because he's special. He is a combination of a prize-fighter and Mick Jagger — a rock star with boxing gloves. We have never seen

Dealer North

Hamed has: Jorge Paez had flair, but he was never the full package of showmanship and ability.

"It will be the full extravaganza at Madison Square Garden. This sort of thing has never been done at the Garden before. We're going to see if the American fight audience will accept it. We believe they will."

Ivanisevic finds career at risk over service fault

Tom Walker in Zagreb on the tennis player under threat from presidential crossfire

he sporting obsession of Croatia's ageing and autocratic ruler has touched new levels of irrationality, Franjo Tudjman suggesting that his rift with Goran Ivanisevic can only be healed with a head-to-head on his private tennis court. The president's bravado has

swollen after his alleged victory over Iva Majoli, the winner of the French Open in June. who was also summoned to play Tudjman lest she fall foul of the Zagreb regime. Unfortunately, Ivanisevic, hardly known for a calm temper himself, told Tudjman just what he thought of following suit. "I don't allow anybody to beat me, not God or Jesus. let alone the president. There will be no game." he said. While seemingly the harmless

whims of a dying man — Tudi-man, 75, is fighting stomach cancer — the president's meddling is increasingly resented among a population of four mil-lion, tired of his insistence that

all sporting prow-ess be harnessed to the flame of nationalism. Nowhere is the antipathy more bitter than on the football terraces of Croatia Zagreb, formerly Dynamo Zagreb but renamed by Tudj-

man, the club president. The anthems against him have angered him so much that he has banned the former blue and white scarves and flags of Dynamo from the ground.

Ivanisevic's fall from grace began when he fiercely resisted Tudiman's plans to take over his pet business project, the Croatian indoor tournament, and has now risen to the point where his career is threatened. Tudiman has played his trump card, letting Ivanisevic know that he is not exempt from military service. For his part, Ivanisevic has moved the tournament to his native Split, where political resistance to Tudiman is greatest, and withdrawn his services from the Croatia Davis Cup team.

At this juncture. Ivanisevic said that he was approached by an aide of Tudiman, who told him that all might be forgiven if

is the issue of Ivanisevic's avoid-

ance of military service. Ivanisevic, 26, has always insisted that he is prepared to serve in the army, but has appealed for his call-up to be delayed until the legal age limit - 30 - so that he can maximise his earnings putential. Recently, he opened his heart to the news weekly. Globus, revealing the inner turmoil of a national idol who jetted the globe while watching his nation forged through war.

"I know that many died and I know that I could have gone to war," he said. "Frankly speaking. I would have got a bullet in my head within two minutes, and what's the purpose in that? I think I have promoted the State. done more than I could have if I had gone to war."

The emerging Majoli is from Zagreh and has had less chance to revolt against the president. It is scarcely conceivable that she really lost to him, but the details of the game, played on a hidden court in a military complex adjoining one of Tudjman's villas, will never be known.

Tennis has he

come the symbol of Tudjman's contin-

ued vitality and it

is not unusual for

his entire Cabinet

to be dragooned

into watching him

This country can be very evil if it wants to be'

> play. His irrational desire to control sport and fashion it in his image is a symptom of his governmental style, but time is on the side of his opponents. Ivanisevic will probably not have long to wait for change at the top, since few believe Tudiman will survive his new five-year term in office.

Last week, the football fans who followed Zagreb to Spain for a match against Atlético Madrid expressed their feelings with a banner seen by millions of television viewers. "If there was freedom and democracy, then there would be Dynamo and not Croatia," it said. In a similar vein. Ivanisevic

believes that his huge following can beat presidential diktat. This country can be very evil if it wants," he said. "They can cheat me if they want, but they should know that I am a more important media star than all of them put together. I'll hit them like nobody Festering beneath the dispute has before, and then we'll see who the loser is."

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL1 San Francisco 34 Denvior 17 BASKETBALL

UNI-BALL TROPHY: Loopards B3 Warford ON-BALL THOPHY: Loopards is wanted Royate 73. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Bosson 100 Phisodelpha 83. Torcardo 101 Indiana 108 Washington 98 Utah 56. Chargo 111 Phoena 104: Pontand 90 Atlanta 99

BOWLS

DENNY CUP (English Impoor Bowling Association interests binamountshed Fifth round. Alon Walley of Hustingdon and Geomatchester 83-61. Facon bit North Warners 78-77. Cumping to Simel Applite 74-65 Black pool Borough bit Boscon 77-68 Swindon Westerd or Whiteholges 83-65. Montified for Sodmir 91-58 Cambridge Part of Onstat Paloco 166-52 Poismouth Victor, bit Folfastione 56-70 Darrington bit Suitelland 76-68 South Forest of York 90-74 Lenster Brandon 112-63 Havening or Wilmohalman De. 89-75, Dereadon bit Sonie Coole Ni Certific 76-66; East Dorset of Angel (Torchnolge) 83-57, Deveation bit Solve 79-66. Teight of the William 190-61.

and Anger (Torthodger 84-57). Develop to 18-bing 78-66. Temporage or Welland 18-bing 78-66. Temporage or Welland 18-bing 78-66. Temporage or Welland 18-bing 78-bing 7

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FOOTBALL

Reports and scores from the FA Cup and the FA Carling Premiership Call 0839 555 562

Calls cost 50p per minute

McDonald not out. Extras (fb 4, w 23, nb 1) Total (41.1 overs)....

FALL OF WICKETS, 1-2, 2-2, 3-30, 4-47, 5-50, 6-94, 7-104, 8-113, 9-115. BOWLING Redfern 6-2-6-2; Taylor 7-1-15-0; Smithles 10-0-30-1; MacLend 5-0-15-0; Lang 9-0-37-1; Reynard 4 1-1-6-4 Umpres. T Handu and A Chelpende

OTHER MATCH: New Defrit Australia 412-3 (B Clark 229 not out. K Rotion 64, L Keightley 60); Denmark 49 Australia win by 363 runs. TOUR MATCH (final day of tour). Deverport Teamena 535-5 dec and 147-1 dect South Africans 402-8 dec and 94-2 (J.H. Kallis 51 not out). Match drawn

FOOTBALL

AVON DESURANCE COMERNATIONS, First division: Arsenst 5 (pseud) 1; Crystal Palece 1 Luton 2; Milwell 0 Charlen 4; Cusens Par Rangers 4 Portsmouth 1 GERMAN CUP. Quarter-first Entrachi Tine 1 Welchold Maurinellin 0 CONFEDERATIONS* CUP: Sauch Arabe 1 Australia 0 (in Rivadh)

Monday's late results MONOgy is less than the property of the CALL BIOL PREMIETS P.M. Marcheste United 1 Aston Villa 0. FA CUP: Second-round replay: Severage Borough 2 Cambridge United 1 (Severage Borough to Swindon Town) UNISONO LEASUE Premier division Hyde 3 Sperrymoor 2 FYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division HYMNUN LEAGUE: Printing opposition of the Purifier 2 Harrow 2.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division. Chelsen 2 Wimbledon 2.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Hundersfield 0 Middlesbrough 1: Sundersind 2 Manchester Cey 1. Second division: Lincoln 2 Bradford 3; Shelfield Utd 1.

Rotherham 2. Third division: Newcesfie 3 Mill 0.

Hull 0
PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Selvibal 2 Sporting Lisbon 9

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL Kid-off 7:30 unless stated alenotes all-ticket European under-21 championship Qualifying play-off

England (0) v Greece (2) (at Norwich City FC, 7 45) FA Carling Premierable lewcastle v Derby (7 45)

FA CUP Second-round replays Emley v Lincoln (at Huddersfield Town FC, 7.45) • Illuston v Scunthorpe (7 45)

Gateshead v Micrecambe (7.45) ... DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Cup: Second round: Redditch v Bilston Tr.
HYMAN LEAGUE: Full Members Cup: Second round: Leyfon Pennant v Gray: Associate Mambers Triphy: Second round: Marting County Second Resociate Mambers Triphy: Second round: Ford Litely Edgware. UNIBOND LEAGUE: Cup: Third round: Bestop Auckland v Bolper Town: Winstood v

Lancester THE STAR LEINSTER SENIOR CUP. Charter-finet: Moneghen v Burren Cetic THE STAY LENGTH V Burren Cellic (7.45)
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Ortord Und v Norwich (al Wirrey Town FC) Swindon v Brighton (7.15). Tottenham v West Ham (at Leyen Orienti). PONTRY'S LEAGUE Premier division: Notingham Forset v Everton (7.0): Transfer v Blackburn (7.0) First division: Sotton v Coverstry (al Leigh RMI, 7.0): Otchsim v Genesby (at Stalybridge Cellac FC, 7.0), West Bromwich v Port Vale (at Halesowen Town FC, 7.9), Second division: Burnley v Blacksool (7.15), Cardisle v Bressley (7.9), Third division: Chasser v Scentorough (7.9), Wigen v Wastall (7.0), Chesterfield v Doncester (7.9) SCREWFD (DRECT LEAGUE) Premier division: Chappenhem v Backwed; Taunton v Calne Les Phillips Cup: First nound: Bridgwarer v Elmore, Crediton v Calsace/script

Widghaser v Bringer. Credition v Electrotexty

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS
LEAGUE: O'Brien Butchers premier division Cup: First grund, first leg: Brache Spartar v Potters Bar Leichworth v Henroyy, Mitjen Keynes v Hallingdon Bollough.
Welayn Genden v Bedford

Suncet CECH INNSE REANCE MIDLAND ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier Offician; Wor-HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Fracerburgh v Eight (6 0), Lossemburh v Bronz: Petishead v December BANK'S BREWERY LEAGUE Cup: Second round, second leg: Stationi Tn v Slourport S

Slourport S
UNLIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First
division: Mile Ook v Satsay, John O'Hana
Cup: Third round: Landing v East Presson
THE TRAES FA YOUTH CUP. Second round replay: Brentford v Swansea. Arsenal v Exeter, Wimbledon v Chelses. NORTHERN COUNTRY EAST LEAGUE, Cup: Third sound: Denoby w Half Road, Weightough Bridge v Cuzzon Ashion.

OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Men's National Cup: Semi-fruel, second leg: Brimingham Bullets (55) v Themes Valley Tiges (63) (7.0).

THE TIMES PA YOUTH CUP: Second round; loswich 4 Great Walening 0; Wolang 1 Gillingham 2 ARGENTRIAN LEAGUE: Racing 2 Platense 1, Ferro Carril Jose 1 Estudianies 2 HANDBALL.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Flonda 3 Boston 6 Monareal 1 Philadelphia 3, Dellar Boston 6' Monsreel 1 Philadelphia 3, Del 8 Buttalo 4 St Louis 1 Ottawa 3, Coloradi Toronto 2: Vancouver 7 Los Angeles 0

NORDIC SKIING STEAMSCAT SPRINGS, Colorado: World Cup event: 1, M Stecher (Austra) 37mm 52-5ec; 2, 8 E W. (Nor) al 39.7sec, 3, T Lotheck (IS) 46 8; 4, S Lapunn (Fin al 1mm 11 4692, 5, L. Rygf (Cz) 1:11.4

REAL TENNIS

MORETON MORRELL: National 15-19 handicap champonship: First round: A Hamilton bit C. Rotheroe 6-5, 6-5, R. McNeughton bit S. Jones 6-5, 6-3. Semi-finals: P. Lurriey bit A Knibbs 2-6, 6-1, 6-4. Hamilton bit McNeughton 6-5, 6-5. Finiti: Lurriey bit Hamilton 5-6, 6-5, 6-1.

BUGBY UNION

THE TIMES STUDENTS EUROPEAN CHAMPONSHIP: Pool crinic Durham University 35 Tranty Collego, Dublin 10; Swarcasa University 35 Rome 12 (both at Kritiston Park, Newcasale) Pool wo: Toulouse University 70 Northurstine University 70 Northursti Toulouse University of Volunturations of Viver sity 14: Loughborough University 25 Univer-sity College, Dublin 24 (Both at Toulouse REC) Pool tour: University College, Con 40 Cardiff Medicals 18 (at Mardyle) SHOOTING

BISLEY. British Pistol Club Christmas Investing: Replid fire: 1, D Wenner 280pris, 2. D Johnstone 275; 3, A Scule 274 Standard pistol: 1, R Eventi 278, 2, D Johnstone 276; 3, D Robinson 272. Women: 1, B Barbar 283; 2, B Young 279, 3, L Ashcrott 301 Sport pistol; 1, Eventi 280; 2, Static 280; 3, Intronouse 280 (Alex Countribus) Free Johnstone 280 (after countback) Free platet 1, M Barnes 261. SKUNG

SESTRIERE, help: World Cup statom: 1, F.C. Jagge (Mor) 1mm 51.43tec; (56.35ec/35 08ec); 2. T. Sylvara (Australia, 151.77 (56.2755.50; 3. N+P Burans (Nor) 151.85 (57.0554.60); 4, A. Tomba (II) 152.05 (57.5054.55); 5. M. Hensson (Sme) 152.24 (56.78/55.48).

SPEED SKATING HAMAR, Norwey: World Cup event: Merc 5,000m; 1, h Storeld (Nor) drinn 34-10se;; 2, K Shrahata Llapuni 6 36 21; 3, 6 Rorme (i) 6.36.16; 4. R Harelde (May 6:37.56; 5. R de Jong (Holl 6:38.14) Women: 1,500m; 1, E Hunyady (Assitudiated Limin 59.28se; 2, C Pechalen (Gert 159,74, 3, C Witty (US) 2:00.00; 4, 1 de Jong (Holl) 2:01 43, 5, h Friesinger (Gert 2:01.54)

BOUASH

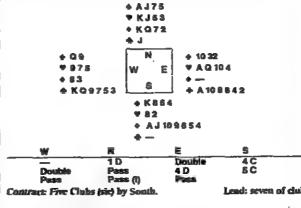
NATIONAL SUPER LEAGUE CUP: First round: Duffield 2 Routends Manchester 1, Amourced Printy 1 ICL Unificense 2 Behap's Scriftord 8 Suithton 3; Duration Maester 3 Carolli Institute 0, Halamshire 1 Helifes Institute 0.

WINDSURFING PERTI-E World: ciramphonethips: Methol clear: Men, 1, A Michrioth (N2) 56pts; 2, A Insise (Isr) 72-3. J Rockigues (Por) 76 (Interior countscal), 4, J-P Toben (A2) 76, 5, M Galvan (Arg) 77 Wometr; 1, Lei-Shen Lee (H) 36pts 2, A Sensini (II) 36; 3, B Mondell (N2) 44, N Sturgess (Yus) 75; 5, C Zhang (Zhina) 190

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent I conclude this series on splinters with a cautionary tale. In an uninterrupted auction it's clear enough which bids are splinters. but when the opponents intervene there can be confusion. The sensible agreement to have is that splinters are "off" after intervention, except if made in the opponents' suit(s).

Love all



I was North. If East had passed over One Diamond, then South's Four Clubs would have been a splinter bid, showing short clubs and diamond support. After the double, my interpretation was that Four Clubs was natural and pre-emptive.

Luckily West's double gave us another chance — had he passed he would have delended Four Clubs. When South bid Five Clubs over East's Four Diamonds it was abundantly clear to everyone at the table (except me) that he was showing shortage.

If South's first bid had been natural, he certainly would not have gone on to Five Clubs in the face of West's double of

VAVASOUR

a. A banner

NEUTRINO

Four Clubs. So I should have realised that the repeat of clubs showed a void.

With communication in clubs, the defence took eleven tricks in Five Clubs - nine down for 450 to East-West. If we had bid Five Diamonds they would presumably have sacrificed in Six Clubs for one down, so my error cost 550 DOIRIS.

There was a saving grace, though: we then picked up three laydown slams, bid two of them, and won a 28-point rubber.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard PENTHEMIMER

a. An anaesthetist b. Feudal rank b. Classical verse form c. Old-tyme dancing c. A marionene PEAU-DE-SOIE

a. An atomic particle a. A chamber pot b. A newborn mule foal b. A nightcap c. Material c. Sung from a Thirties Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

c>p3

Bq5

14 Bx(6)

15 Nd7

16 Nxc5 17 axb5

19 Re1

23 13

die4

Res Qxi6

axb5 Rkell

b4 Qe7 Ra5

By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

British wins

Two British grandmasters have won through to the fourth round of the Fide championship in Groningen, Holland. Although Matthew Sadler was eliminated by Alexei Dreev, of Russia, both Nigel Short and Michael Adams won their third-round matches. Adams eliminated Tiviakov, of Russia, by 112-12 while Nigel Short over-whelmed Andrei Sukolov, also of Russia, 2-0.

The event has been notable for the early disappearance of many of the favourites, including Vassily Ivanchuk, Veselin Topalov and Judit Polgar. The reigning Fide champion, Anatoly Karpov, is already assured of a place in the final. Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik, the world's No I and No 2 players, have both boycotted the Fide tournament since they object to the sudden death nature of the competition.

Here is Short's second win against Sokolov. White: Andrei Sokolov Black: Nigel Short

Fide world championship

Groningen, December 1997 Ruy Lopez Nos 3 Bb5 26 4 Ba4 0.0 6 Bb3 Bc5 Bb7 7 a4

63

Rx15 Odio KIT FIdS Bad Bas Bas Bed Red Rad Baha kho Qe4+ Rc3 Qf7+ Brt.1 43 Fq3 Diagram of final position

5 4 金 介 介 第 元 第 元 章

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

abedafoh

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene Black to play. This position is from the game Thomas — Horne, Hastings 1948, Although Black's queen is pinned and attacked, he

found a clever combination to exploit the position of White's queen. What was the key move? This year's Hastings is from December 29 to January 7 at the Cinque Ports Hotel. Details are available on 01424 431970.

Solution on page 42



Nottingham counting the cost of its glory years

Nottingham coaching staff to the ball-boys before the league game against Liverpool St Helens. "So if a Liverpool player wants to take a quick throw, hang on to

Desperate times call for desperate measures. Nottingham, one of the top six clubs in England in the early nineties, are in crisis. With no money, no sponsor, no millionaire benefactor and no crowd to speak of, their precarious league position (tenth in the first division of the Jewson National League) is an irrelevance. They cannot pay their players and have had to contact insolvency specialists for advice.

So much for Cliff Brittle's blueprint. Rugby Restructure 2000. Nottingham are close to extinction and, according to the club's president, John Cosslett, they are not alone.

English rugby is a financial disaster waiting to hap-pen." Cosslett said. "People like Sir John Hall have gone in blindly and a lot of clubs have followed. The returns don't equal the wages. I know of one club benefactor who's getting phone calls from another Premiership club trying to offload players because they can't afford them.

Rugby has no long-term

professional future unless there's a huge boost in interest in the game. There aren't enough burns on seats at grounds because people are watching it on TV.

The threat of financial ruin exists at all clubs, even the elite. Leicester, with 14,000 paying members and seasonticket sales exceeding £1.3 million, expect to lose money this year. Nottingham attract barely 300 for league games and even those who turn up do not stay. By 6pm on match days the clubhouse is almost empty; astonishingly, the bar rums at a loss.

A year ago, when the dub was close to folding, an anon-ymous backer — later revealed to be Terry Keeley, who owns a furnishing company near likeston - came



promised £100,000 for each of

the next five seasons and

Nottingham went about re-

cruiting players to arrest a

slide that began with demo-

tion from the top division in

1992. But they were relegated

again, players jumped ship

and, in October, Keeley decid-

It was a devastating blow

for a club that at the start of

the decade could match Bath

and Leicester. Nottingham

developed three of England's

finest goal kickers in Rob

Andrew, Dusty Hare and

Simon Hodgkinson, together with the likes of Brian Moore,

Neil Back, Gary Rees, Chris

Opinions vary as to why it

went wrong. One factor

Oti and Chris Gray.

ed to keep his money.

The stars who left: Moore, left, and Andrew . .

Alan Pearey on a rugby union club learning the art of survival

after falling on hard times

NOTTINGHAM'S BUDGET, 1997-98

The club originally had a break-even budget for the

ent financial year with revenue estimated at

E400,000. But the figures have been upset by the loss

of Terry Keeley's expected £100,000 investment and a shortfall of £22,000 from BSkyB income, after

confusion over a payment to the club.

England B coach, Alan Davies, to Wales. He had acted as a magnet for prospective international players. The poaching of players by local rivals did not help, although

some feel that Nottingham

themselves raided neighbour-

ing clubs without troubling to elop their own. Hodgkinson, now a coach at the club, cites two fundamental reasons for Nottingham's predicament. "First, we didn't cash in on success. There was no foresight, no

younger players lining up to

laon Homes (aption

replace the older nucleus who. had given us good times," he

"Second, money. We've dropped two divisions but we're still coming across sides like Worcester, Leeds and London Welsh who have spent fortunes. Last year especially, fin the second division of the Courage Clubs Champ ionship] it was a totally unfair

David Rollo, vice-chairman and commercial manager, is also unhappy. "£100,000 is nothing, "he said. "We need a

Wages (Including players and coaches)*...... S

\$75,000

get us into the second division and we need that every year to stay there. Our wage bill is El8.000 a month. Just look at our crowds where's that

money coming from?

You have a big split between rugby teams and rugby clubs. Nottingham is a rugby club. We have 12 teams from the age of eight up. Newcastle are a team of 25 players and nothing else. What Cliff Brittle must realise is that our end of the food chain needs as much attention as the top end. We should receive money from the RFU according to how many sides we put out."
Happily, the club is not without spirit and the players,

none of whom has been fully paid since October, have created a three-tier system to

anything, we've more motivation because we're doing it for ourselves," said Glen Delaney, the captain and one of more than 20 semi-professionals on the dub books.

We've agreed to play on the understanding that money will come. We've put our trust in the committee and they're delivering."

The "delivering" is Nottingham's latest plan to stay in business. The club's Beeston ground is worth more than their liabilities. When Keeley pulled out, the club had two options sell the ground immediately on a "same usage" basis, or seil it later with planning permission at-tached. The club chose the

"We need £500,000," Coss-



... and those who stayed: Rees, right, and Hodgkinson

ground and would give us that much now. But we could get'a guaranteed £12 million fin contract if we sold it with planning permission. Our plan is to put together a consortium. About 40 people have shown interest and we're more than confident we can raise half-a-million.

"The club members would also have a stake and put money in. They would get a return on their investment when the land was sold. If, say, we got half-a-million now and then sold the ground in three years' time, we might have to return, say, £!

That Nottingham will sell their ground and share with a local club is inevitable. But the loss of their Beeston home, where they have resided since 1904, is a small price to pay to stay afloat. Negotiations are progressing well and the club hopes to confirm that it will become a limited company at a special general

meeting next month. The first team has bags of potential. If rugby remains professional, these young players are growing assets," Cosslett said. "By developing good players and selling them on, you can sit at the main table. The situation is so rocky, but if we can still be here in three years' time, we'll be in a strong position."

standard.

RUGBY UNION

Geoghegan ready to relaunch his career against Pau

A FOOT injury has interrupted Simon Geoghegan's career on a number of occasions but he is expected to dip his toe the one that has caused him such aggravation and pain -back into the waters of professional rugby on Saturday. The months of trials and tribulations would appear to be at a close after the Ireland wing was named yesterday in the Bath squad to play Pau in the semi-finals of the Heineken

Cup. If Adedayo Adebayo fails a fitness test on Friday, then Geoghegan will start only his thirteenth match for the club since moving to the Recreation Ground from London Irish three years ago. Should his colleagues, who are still coming to terms with their record defeat by Saracens on Sunday. require inspiration for the semi-final, they need look no further than Geoghegan. He has undergone nine

operations on foot injuries three on the left foot and six on the right — and was forced to endure repeated sethacks as he sought a cure for his

GWYN JONES, the Wales

captain, was said to be "com-

fortable" yesterday at the University Hospital of Wales

after an operation to ease the

was rushed to hospital on

Saturday after being badly

hurt in the Welsh League

match against Swansea, suf-

fered an injury to his spinal

cord and was left without

movement in his arms and

firmed Gwyn Jones had an

operation this morning as

The hospital has con-

The Cardiff flanker, who

complaint. Three times he crossed the Atlantic for operations, twice to San Diego and, this autumn, to Seattle, Pianned comebacks were postponed, the British Isles tour to South Africa last summer was missed and his international career was put on hold.

The doubters questioned whether he would or could play again, and in the darker moments Geoghegan, a 29year-old London solicitor, must have harboured similar thoughts and wondered whether he should call time on a dazzling but all-too-brief career that included 37 caps for Ireland.

The most recent operation was needed after playing for Bath United at Ebbw Vale on September 23. The pain in the big toe of his right foot that has dogged him returned. The operation was deemed a success, and, although the toe will never be perfect, it is as good as it will be.

"It has been a nightmare; so frustrating because the rest of my body has been fine. I still think I can play at the top level

comfortable position on the

"At the present time his

ward," a spokesman said.

and, with Jon Sleightholme leaving [Bath, to join Northampton], I am certain I will get an opportunity. I know the foot will always be painful but it is just one of those things you learn to put up with," Geoghegan said.

Apart from Geoghegan's re-covery, Andy Robinson, the Bath coach, received more welcome news yesterday when it was confirmed that Mike Catt would play against Pau. Catt completes a mandatory 21-day rest period this week having been concussed playing for England against South Africa last month.

He replaces Richard Butland at fly half and Mark Regan comes in for Andy Long at hooker. Eric Peters makes Richard Webster. "I rate this the biggest game in our hist-ory," Robinson said.

Off the field, three of the four working parties set up by the English Rugby Partner-ship today will submit their reports - on marketing and communications, a structured season and finance - to the board of English First Divi-

sion Rugby.
France have reacted in typical fashion to their record defeat by South Africa by omitting nine players, among them Philippe Saint-Andre, the captain, and Abdélatif Benazzi, his predecessor, from a squad session next week to prepare for the five nations' championship.

medical team are unable to give any further indication of Pierre Villepreux, the assishis likely long-term improvetant coach, insisted that those nine players, who also include The Cardiff club's chief the Harlequins pair of Thierry Lacroix and Laurent Cabexecutive. Gareth Davies, who visited Jones before the annes, had not been dropped. operation said: "Gwyn is in This does not mean these remarkably good spirits con-sidering what he's been through. He's been helped by players have finished their careers for France. We simply want to take the opportunity to the support he's received from bring in as many players as his friends, colleagues and the



Fleming has pointed the way to a new, fully-professional approach to refereeing rugby. Photograph: David Rogers/Alisport

Fleming presses for full-time referees

The man who received much of the credit for the classic drawn match between England and New Zealand last month, referee lim Fleming, yesterday called for refereeing to become a full-

World Cup. The Twickenham performance of Fleming — combining firmness and commonsense — helped to demonstrate that there need not be anything preventing spheres from competing on

even lenns. Fleming admitted to being physically and mentally drained after the match and suggested that unrealistic expectations were being made of part-time referees. The point was brought home to him when he returned to London last weekend to take charge of ible to our planning," he "I was speaking to Law-

Kevin Ferrie finds the official who recently took centre stage at Twickenham has strong views on the future for men in the middle

rence Dallaglio and Jason Leonard after the game and they said it had taken them until the Tuesday or Wednesday to get over such a physical game. They are a good deal younger than I am," he said.

Fleming, 46, was back in his office at Edinburgh City Council on the Monday after the England game. He will take charge of his 30th internation-al when France face Ireland during the five nations' championship in the spring and knows that it is too late for his generation to harbour ambitions about becoming

fully professional. At our stage most people have career structures set and would not be worth their while, but we must push for the appointment of full-time

referees after the World Cup and look for younger people to bring through," he said. "If I were in my early thirties I

opportunity.
"We should have a squad of referees who are constantly liaising not only with one another, but with the International Board, players and coaches as well," he said.

would see it as a great

He pointed out that five such appointments in Austra-lia and three in New Zealand have already been made and high-profile northern hemisphere matches, particularly following the introduction of the Heineken Cup, means the demand now exists in Europe.

his demanding hobby into a profession could have.

"I am probably performing better than at any time in my career, which I believe is because the European Cup has meant I've been operating at a higher level throughout the season so far."

Fleming was speaking after being appointed to the International national Rugby Football Board's 13-man panel for the five nations' championship, which has made up for his surprising omission from the nine-man group put in place on a similar basis for the Super 12 competition last

"I was extremely disappointed that I wasn't on that panel because I thought I was

SEASON.

refereeing well enough," he said. He is optimistic that the group can have a positive impact on improving the appeal of rugby. He explained that the 13

officials will have a video conference, from bases in both hemispheres, to discuss how they intend to approach refereeing the championship.

He also believes that they can build on that to have a longer-term influence on how the laws and their interpretations can be improved to allow both players and spectators to understand decisions more

Fleming had a message for the players who blame officials for the poor quality of entertainment frequently on offer in the British club game. "What it comes down to is the attitude of players, coaches and, yes, referees, he said. We all have to be on the same wavelength."

SNOW REPORTS

Hospital report says

Jones is comfortable

		Depth (cm) U		onditions Ofl/p	Fluns to resort	(5pm)		Last
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbuhel	20 Nerv	80 nood sk	good iina an a	powder Dan pister	lair s: 18/60 lift	SUR (neco z	-5	15/12
Obergurgi	70	110	good	powder	good , powdery	Şun	-7	15/12
FRANCE								
Churtorna					closed om snow a			13/12
Tignes	60	130	good	varied	lair ared pistes	cloud -	14	15/12
Val d'have	40	60	booo	varied	art	cloud	-8	15/12
Vel Thorens	40	oms and 90	good	varied	en: good a tak	(amivoe)	و.	14/12
		COM W	semer ma	areaning.	good ima	10		
TALY	_						_	
Continu	20 (Good	90 skiing	ou avsigs Socq	varied bie pistes	art :: 18/40 lifts	croud open)	-3	15/12
HORWAY								
Ginta					lair and skiing		-9	12/12
SWITZERLA		p				,		
C Montane	5	. 40	fair	powder	closed	lair	-6	14/12
					above this		_	
Klosters	45			powder arty-seaso	lair n skiina)	ine	-/	14/12

Source, Ski Club of Great Britain, L - lower slopes; U - troper; art - artificial.

SNOOKER: CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNING BODY SEES AN END TO ACRIMONY

Williams puts forward peace policy

REX WILLIAMS, chairman of the World Professional Bil-liards and Snooker Association, yesterday attempted to call a truce on the infighting in his sport prior to a potentially acrimonious annual meeting

Jim McKenzie was dismissed from his post of chief executive at the start of the month and Ian Doyle, who manages many of the game's top stars, has already pledged to try to overthrow Williams, while McKenzie is to sue his former employers, whom he has described as amateurs, for breach of contract.

the world champion, also attacked the decision to remove McKenzie, claiming the sport

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF tom". Williams, though, who

attended a meeting yesterday of many of the leading players and managers in the sport, remains confident about the immediate future. Williams said: "This was a thoroughly constructive meeting at which many aspects of the game were discussed confidentially by players and managers alike. I am now delighted that we can finally draw a line under the past and look forward to a sustained period of

Williams was backed by Steve Davis, the former world No l. and pleaded with the leading figures to work together to take the sport forward.

increased dynamism and

Davis said: "Snooker really does not need any more problems than it has at present and talk of breakaway groups or

the like is total madnes Sanity must prevail and after having effectively appointed the new board just a lew months ago, I am of the belief to give the current board a chance to do what they can for the sport. I am happy to give Rex Williams and his colleagues on the WPBSA board my 100 per cent

John Higgins, who won the German Open in Bingen at the weekend, has called for the sournament to remain on the snooker calendar. The WPBSA has reached the end

of its three-year contract with Eurosport and negotiations must take place in order to clinch a repeat booking.

The crowds have been brilliant and the venue has been great," said Higgins, who received a standing ovation from a full house at the Atlantis Rheinhotel after his 9-4 victory over John Parrott in the final.

Jim Storey, director for Trans World International, the snooker production comparry, echoed the Scottish player's comments. Every player we have interviewed this week says this tournament must come back to Bingen," Storey said. Television needs a good backdrop and a good atmo-sphere. We had both in

BASKETBALL

Finger points the way for Bullets' revival

MIKE FINGER, the Birmingham Bullets coach, believes that his side's recent record. against Thames Valley proves that they can overturn an eight-point deficit in their National Cup semi-final home leg today. Success will depend on con-

taining Tony Holley, the Tigers forward, who continues to tear up the Budweiser League with averages of 22 points and almost 14 rebounds

per garos, We match up well in most positions, but they obviously have an advantage at powerforward with Tony on offence," Finger said. "We're going into it like it's half-time and we're down by eight. We

were down 20 last time they. came up here and cut it back to two but still lost. We know overcome and just need to make sure we don't try to get it back all at once."

Finger will alternate Fabulous Flournoy and Clive Allen against Holley, who believes the way to exploit the Birmingham defence is through their rookies - Chris Haslam, the centre, and H L Coleman, the forward. "I think that's where we have the

advantage," Holley said. Bullets, who lost the first leg 63-55, welcome back Nigel Lloyd, the point-guard, who missed the game because of a hand injury

Equine confrontation that underlined age-old truth

هكذامن الإمل

ow splendid it was to see as I travelled across London, the Tube stations and escalators once more converted to a shrine to Torvill and Dean. As they begin their latest showbiz tour, they are, apparently, quite unchanged, save that the nasty manyey-purple of the fluttering Bolero costume has been moderated by time into a nasty shade of tangerine.

Mixing in equal measure beau-ty and absurdity, sumptuous skill and high kitsch, competitive will and a dream of artistic endeavour, they gave delight without stinting. And their last Olympic performance, rewarded by the infamous and undeserved bronze, gained the biggest British television audience ever gathered to a sporting

Sport? Well, I have long defended T and D, mainly because they were wonderful. I have also defended all the subjectively judged sports (except hoxing), and I will go in to bat for ice skating, with all its nonsense, any time it

Seems to need defending.

But then I found anyself reduced to real out loud public laughter at what must be the funniest piece of writing that The Times sports pages have carried all year. Simon Barnes, Lynne Truss, eat your hearts out, because

you cannot compete world of dance is torn over the Viennese," I read, the Viennese being the waltz rather than the father of psycho-

analysis. "Purists worldwide want the dance to remain restricted to four figures, the reverse and natural turns, and the reverse and natural fleckerls." I wouldn't give the time of day to an unnatural fleckerl myself. They are engaged

calling for lifts, curtsies and other

This wonderful piece was written by our dance sport specialist. Ruth Gledhill, reviewing a book called The Viennese Waltz. A whole book about the Viennese Waltz! It is absurd beyond belief. and I could not restrain an outbreak of delighted laughter over my morning

cappaccino. 'To the lover, To the lover, noth ing is less absurd nothing is than his passion; to the observer, only less absurd' the absurd elements any clarity. Call that

> over dance sport. piece in yesterday's Times sports pages was just as absurd, or just as wise as this piece on the

Swann's Law. For of course, it is I.

not the lover, that is or am at fault

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

ered the ball and flicked it back into the stumps." What have Stewart's haunches to do with

"United settled into the invigorating rhythm that has been their hallmark ..." "Edmondo, known as The Animal, was not chosen "Large Action, too, will at last

be tried over a trip. Anyone who holds any sport absurd is on safe ground. But anyone who holds one sport absurd and another wise is making himself a fool. Dance sport outrages my prejudices, but not my faculty for logic.

There are those that would condemn all the subjectively judged sports, conveniently for-getting that all sports have about them subjective judgment: points in boxing, offside, leg-before and on and on.

And there is the point that subjective judgment of competi-tion is older than formal sport ... older by millions of years. I witnessed just such a subjec-tively judged, formal conflict, a

trial of mental toughness played

and subjectively judged by the contestants themselves. The contestants were horses my young animal. Bullseye, and the herd boss, Rupert.

Facing each other, they made a series of bites at each other's necks: never quite connecting. Competition escalated, because Bullseye is an ambi-

tious young thruster. The two animals The observer made a series of little hops at each other, each threatening to stand on his absurd element' hind legs and box, but not quite doing

so. Then, dramatically, both halfstood, backs at an angle of 45 degrees. No blow was offered, but, as Bullseye landed, he turned away and presented his back end

He had withdrawn his offensive threat replaced it with a defensive time. The encounter was bloodless, formal, regulated, subjectively judged.

Subjective judgment is at the heart of the sporting experience. Was there any better, stronger competitor in sport this year than Svetlana Chorkina, the world champion gymnast? I caught the

lyrical beauty of her asymmetric bar performance in Glasrecently. though alas only on television. It was one of the best bits of sport I have seen

Ruth, forgive me. I laughed at dance sport, and I bet I will laugh again. But at least I will do so knowing that I am wrong.

If there is truth in one horse's victory over another, in a field or on a race track, then there is truth

England opener has opposition stumped all round in one-day game

Stewart sets standards on route to Gulf glory

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN SHARIAH

WHO is the best all-rounder in one-day cricket? Pakistan have Wasim Akram, the best fast bowler in the world and an attacking batsman when the mood takes him. South Africa have Shaun Pollock and Lance Klusener, Jacques Kallis and even Hansie Cronje. No wonder they are winning so many matches.

For India, Saurav Ganguly makes runs quickly and bowls serviceable medium pacers. West indies have Carl Hooper, whose off spin supplements his bruising batting. Sri Lanka, of course, have Jayasuriya, whose extraordinary exploits at the top of the order did so much to help win the World Cup last year.

in England's team of jobbing all-rounders, though, Alec Stewart stands out as the most important. Stewart has been, without a doubt, the man of this tournament, the key man in the only team to have won every game. They contest the final against West Indies on Friday and, as he points out: "We've got to win

As opening batsman and wicketkeeper, he has been in excellent form this past week. He continues to contribute something that is never identified on the scorecard, but which gives the team so much: enthusiasm. "I now know that, when England are doing well. Alec Stewart runs the show." Matthew Fleming said after taking four wickets against India on his international

debut. It was in that match that Stewart set the tone of England's performance, timing the ball sweetly from the start, squeezing out singles and twos between the wickets, and stumping Tendulkar. He remains supremely fit and spruce for a man of 34 who has played so much cricket in the past decade. The words on his cricketing crest could well

be: every inch the pro. Against Pakistan on Monday, in a march England could

easily have lost. Stewart was at his best, batting well for 48 and then relentless in his vocal support of the bowlers. It must be quite something for a batsman at the crease to have his eardrums battered with volleys of patter. When the match was at its tightest, Stewart was in his element.

It was fitting that he had a hand in the last two wickets, catching Azhar Mahmood when a top-edged drive sent the ball flying into the night sky, then leaping athletically from behind the stumps to run out Saqlain, who had left his crease without checking his bearings. In the 49th over of the innings, with nerves fraying. Stewart was the most alert man on the field.

With Stewart as wicketkeeper, batsman, confidant to the captain, cheerer-up-inchief and general factotum. England can field an entire team of all-rounders. Of the team that played the other night against Pakistan only Ally Brown, the opening batsman, is not a bowler of any description. Hick and Thorpe have not been called upon to bowl but can do, and both field

If England are pinching

themselves at the way things

have gone, they are entitled. Their cricket has been brimful of purpose and no little skill, even though they like to be known as the team without stars. Dougie Brown, who is improving with the years, and Fleming have enjoyed a marvellous week and Mark Ealham is becoming indispensable in the 50-over game. Even if England fail to beat West Indies on Friday, all the players involved here can expect to reconvene in April. for the five one-day interna-tionals at the end of the West Indies tour. David Graveney. the Sharjah tour manager. hopes that the party will be announced, and Adam Hollioake appointed leader, just as soon as the team returns to



West Indies secure place in final

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON

SHARJAH (India won toss): West Indies beat India by 41

WEST Indies will meet England in the final of the Champions Trophy on Friday. To deprive them of the opportunity, India had to make 230 in 45 overs, and so overtake them on run rate. For a while they threatened to make the game close until they found, like everybody else this week, that batting last on a wearing pitch is a perilous activity.

There was one astonishing feature of this game: the West Indies pace bowlers failed to take a wicket between them. Hooper gathered four with his gentle off breaks and arm balls, Chanderpaul three with his leg spin and Lewis, who also ran out Tendulkar and Azharuddin from square leg. ended with one. In years to come it might make a good quiz question.

Having been put in to bat by

an extra batsman in place of Singh, West Indies were held together by Stuart Williams, who batted through the innings for 105, his first hundred

in one-day internationals. Hooper made 38, and Lara 23, but the way Chauhan, India's second spinner, ing only 30 runs from his ten

bowled his off breaks, concedovers, and taking two wickets.

offered a clue as to how difficult it would be to chase the target.

When India replied, Ganguly was soon finding the boundary square of the wick-et, and he greeted Lewis by stepping out to hit him over long-on for six. Sidhu went, searching for the same boundary, but Dravid, promoted above Tendulkar, kept the

SCOREBOARD FROM SHARJAH

WEST INDIES
P A Wallace c Ganquiy b Sringth
S C Welams not out
B C Lara c Kumble b Chauhan
C L Hooper c Azharuddin b Ganguly .
S Chanderpaul c Jadeja b Chaufian
P V Smmons b Kumble
F.A. Rose b Sringth
A N Lewis not out
Extres (lb 5, nb 3)
Total (6 wide, 50 overs)
AD MERCHANIS AND DESIGNATION AND SEC A MARIA

BOWLING. Waish 7-1-24-0; Rose 6-0-35-0; Dillon 6-0-30-0. Lewis 10-0-38-1; Hooper 8-2-0-37-4, Chanderpaul 5-0-18-3. Man of the march S C Williams. Umpires: C.J Mitchley (South Alnes) B.C. Cooray (Sn Lants)

to fantasy. One by one the batsmen

swung and missed. The Indians in the crowd did not like it one little bit. Their team came here full of hope and ended the competition without a win. It

was all a bit embarrassing.

score ticking along nicely until

the innings subsided. Gan-

one so far as West Indies were

concerned. Waltzing down the pitch to lift Lewis high and

straight, he was beaten so

thoroughly by the turning ball that David Williams will have

Then, disaster for India, as

Tendulkar and Azharuddin,

the most accomplished play-

ers in the team, risked all on

Lewis's arm and lost. They

made five runs between them.

and their chance went with

them. Hooper will enjoy no

Like Manzoor Akhtar. of

Pakistan, the day before he helped himself to four wickets,

and when Chanderpaul, the

little Trinidad batsman, joined

the feast the evening was close

better match with the ball.

few easier stumpings.

guly's wicket was the crucial

World record for Edwards falls in a day

sees only the

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN PUNE

CHARLOTTE EDWARDS gave a masterful display of batting here yesterday, producing an innings that, on any other day, would have seen her enter the record books. One day short of her eighteenth birthday, Edwards batted throughout the England innings for 173 not out against Ireland, comfortably eclipsing the previous highest individual score in World Cup matches

Just as Edwards was recovering, however, news came through from Bombay that Belinda Clark, the Australia captain, had scored 229 not out in the total of 412 for three, after which Denmark were dismissed for 49 (top score was extras with 12). On the way, Clark scored the fastest oneday century made in women's off 64 balls and, in all, facing

Both innings left Lindsay Reeler's 143 not out for Australia against Holland at Williton, in 1988, in the shade. Australia's total was also a record, beating the 376 scored by England against Pakistan earlier in this tournament.

Reunited as opening partners, Edwards and Jan Brittin so disrupted the Ireland bowlers' rhythm that by the eighth over four had been used. Brittin started the more fluently, but when she went. caught behind off Catherine O'Neill, Edwards took her cue to open up and display the rich variety of shots she possesses in exploring every corner of the Nehru Stadium.

Barbara Daniels lasted only ten balls before pulling Miriam Grealey straight to mid-wicket, and Sue Metcalfe, the vice-captain, joined Edwards in the seventeenth over. After her cautious start, Edwards reached 50 off 66 balls with five fours, but she needed only a further 34 to reach three figures, with an additional seven boundaries. It was her second one-day international hundred in her eighth match.

When Metcalle overbalanced and was stumped down the leg side off Catriona Beggs, the third wicket had yielded 108 runs in one hour, of which Metcalfe's contribution was 29. Battling against exhaustion and repeated bouts of cramp. Edwards's concentration waned on reaching her century. She was twice dropped at square leg, when

110 and 131, and once in the covers on passing 150. Interspersed with weary shors. however, she continued to add to her tally of boundaries,

ending with 19.
Joining Edwards for the final 15 overs of the innings was Jane Cassar, who batted with style and intelligence in scoring 50 in an undefeated 131-run partnership for the fourth wicket. By the time the Ireland bowlers were put out of their misery. Edwards's contribution had reached 173 not out off 155 balls in a shade

over three hours. After two fairly lacklustre bowling performances against Pakistan and Denmark, it was vital that England's bowlers showed greater application here. Bowling left-arm seam, Sue Redfern was soon among the wickets. She removed Nikki Square and Grainne Leahy for ducks, reducing Ireland to two for two. From

TABLES

New Ziraland India Sn Lanka Holland Wast Indies

that point, the match meandered aimlessly, wickets falling intermittently before Melissa Reynard polished off the tail with a spell of four for

six in 4.1 overs. So exhausted was Edwards that she was unable to take the field. "I'm absolutely delighted," she said. The never batted for 50 overs and I didn't know how many I had when I came off. I didn't know it was a world record until I was told in the changing rooms." The innings was not a world record, but world class it

certainly was. England have maintained their unbeaten record but, having batted first in all six matches on tour, their bowlers are yet to be tested properly. That may count against them when they play Australia in Nagpur tomorrow in the final qualifying match in Pool A.

Scoreboard, page 39

Cronje denies tampering with ball

South Africa captain, yesterday rebutted an allegation that he had tampered with the ball during the one-day international against Australia in Sydney on December 4. The allegation, made by

Kerry Packer's Nine Network, which broadcasts cricket throughout Australia. is that Cronje stood on the ball during a match which South Africa won by 67 runs after bowling Australia out for 133. in a statement prepared

during the final day of his leam's game against Tasmania, Cronje said: "According to reports I have received regarding this alleged incident, it took place while the crowd was being brought into order after having

my mind was racing.

charge levelled at South Africa captain

umpires consistently monitored its condition throughout the match. I am also very disappointed that there is an

insinuation that we tried to gain unfair advantage, which is totally contrary to the way we play the game."

Cammie Smith, of West Indies, the match referee for



the game at Sydney, was asked yesterday whether he knew of the incident. "No nothing, nothing whatso-ever, Smith said. In any event that is history now because it was almost two weeks ago ... history."

The rules of the Interna tional Cricket Council (ICC) say that accusations of ball tampering must be brought to the referee's attention during the course of the match for action to be taken. The last case of alleged ball

tampering at international level was in the Perth Test between Australia and Sri Lanka in 1995, when the Pakistani umpire, Khizar Hayat, accused the Sri Lankans, who were found guilty and, under the rules, were unable to comment in their own defence. The decision was later overturned.

in the Lord's Test between England and South Africa in 1994, the England captain, Michael Atherton, was caught on camera rubbing the ball with dirt from his pocket. He owned up the next day and was fined.

Innovative tactics paying dividends BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT MARCEL VAN TRIEST, the

It has been a costly strategy because Kvaemer has slipped from fifth to last. Yesterday. though, the long-term gains in

Van Triest has prospered in this race by being courageous enough to go it alone, convincing his young skipper, Knut Frostad, to accept significant short-term losses for eventual big gains. The strategy has looked not so much reckless or fluky, but an indication of confidence. On this third leg. from

navigator on Innovation

Kvaerner, the leader of the

Whitbread Round the World

race, is sometimes criticised

by his rivals for being a "cor-

ner-banger": someone pre-

pared to take huge risks by

sailing to the edges of the race

course.

Fremantle to Sydney, the Dutchman has lived up to his reputation by taking what another skipper referred to yesterday as the "wild card" option. Kvaerner, and Roy Heiner on BrunelSunergy, have dived south as the fleet beats across the Great Australian Bight in difficult conditions for navigators.

fresher conditions and better

The Norwegian boat posted the fastest speed of the day and cut her deficit on the leader almost in half, from 50 miles to 26 miles, in the course of 12

angles started to come good.



SAILING: SOUTHERN ROUTE MAKES DIFFERENCE FOR TWO WHITBREAD CREWS

DISTANCE TO FINISH (as at 1200GMT yesterday, with miles to Sydney): 1, Toshiba (US) 1,439.8 miles; 2, Swedish Match (Swe) 1,443.8; 3, Silk Cut (GB) 1,447.8; 4, ET Language (Swe) 1,451.4; 5, Merit Cup (Monaco) 1,451.9; 6, Chessie Racing (US) 1,462.2; 7, BrunelSunergy (Holf) 1,463.5; 8, EF Education (Swe) 1,465.1, 9, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 1,466.4.

All the other skippers, including Great Britain's Lawrie Smith on Silk Cut, are looking nervously at weather maps and position schedules to see if Van Triest has done it again. Smith's report yesterday was full of speculation about Kvaerner, 70 miles south of Silk Cut and, at that point, 35 miles astern.

"Kvaerner's tactics are very interesting." Smith said.
"Maybe she is thinking that she can get south of the advancing high pressure into the westerlies, but the maps and the computer models show that this is a very risky move indeed and fairly unlikely to work. Whatever her thinking, she is likely to do very well or very badly due to the fairly large separation."

Paul Cayard, on EF Language, who has opted for a more middling course, said: "It is difficult to know where to invest because the weather pattern can change from when you get a satellite picture or weather fax. Subtle changes can make a big difference.

mi-tire na is revival

thrown objects at my players.
It can assure all that, at that particular point in time. my main concern and thought was how was I going to handle the situation, regarding whether to take the side off the field or not. The players wanted action and

ICC rules prevent any investigation into

"Regarding the ball itself, I would remind all that the



In TV shot Cronje appears to have his foot on ball

Flaming passion that brought the Games back to Greece

London to Olympia is 1,500 miles. But each morning, as the three Angelopoulos children start their day, they can almost feel the pulse of Greece in their Chelsea home. They live off the King's Road in a regally appointed old rectory. On the first floor is the "Red Room". filled with memorabilia from the 12 years that their mother. Gianna Angelopoulos, campaigned and won the fight to bring the Olympic flame "home" to Greece in 2004.

"As you can see, it is next to the breakfast hall," Angelopoulos said. "Passing through our Red Room is like starting the family's blood circulation. We have a life ahead of us, but these photographs reflect the most exciting period; campaigning for the Olympic Games is some-

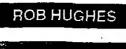
thing in the Greek soul.
"I tell my children that anything you achieve comes through effort, through striving and ability - above all through creating human relationships. From April 1996 to September 1997, I practically left my family behind, even my husband, Theodore, who is very possessive, because the campaign filled my life."

Angelopoulos. 42, mother, lawyer, partner in her hus-band's shipping and industrial company, gave up membership of the Greek parliament to lead the bid to return the Games to Athens for the first time since 1896. Her charm, her grasp of languages, of politics, power and emotion are surely, in this season of giving laurels, wor-thy of woman of the year.

In Lausanne, where the 107 members - most of them male — of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) voted. Angelopoulos first demonstrated that Athens, by pledging £2 billion to projects attacking its pollution and transportation horrors, had learnt the lesson of its rejection by the IOC in 1990.

She then made the IOC members feel they were improving the air that the next generation of Athenians will breath, and challenged them by saying that Athens was loyal to the Olympics and

requested reciprocal loyalty.
It was a devastating appeal. She spoke, in French and English, with a fluency and a voice of controlled passion and her delivery shaded the emotion Nelson Mandela brought to Cape Town's bid, the blatant politics Carlos Menem wielded on behalf of Buenos Aires, the combined presence a meeting between Mandela





meets a contender for woman of the year

leading Olympic athletes gave to Stockholm and the com-bined weight of Luciano Pavarotti and Primo Nebiolo put behind Rome. Angelopoulos dealt with

them. Nebiolo, the godfather of international track and field athletics, had ignored sporting protocol by rubbishing Athens's organisation during the world athletics championships last summer. There came only the sound of silence from Angelopoulos and her 70-strong team. "From the first moment our Prime Minister asked me to lead the bid." she said. "I never was negative

reece had failed

in 1990 because we were arrogant in our assumption that we had a right to renew the Olympic Games in the centenary year. We accepted what the movement were telling us, to improve the city drastically before we represented ourselves. Nobody dared to criticise. Our strategy was to believe in ourselves. always to be constructive to the members of the IOC - and Dr Nebiolo is a member."

There is notable defiance in her dark eyes. "Today? Now I have the privilege, after we got the Games, to say that Dr Nebiolo helped us, his criticism opened our

Self-help, however, is also in Angelopoulos's vocabulary. As the Red Room walls show, she was honoured a month ago in Johannesburg by President Mandela, who not only bowed to the victor, but assisted in the process. In Lausanne, on the eve of the vote. Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the IOC, had arranged

Fireworks over the Temple of Zeus mark the award of the Games to Athens



Angelopoulos celebrates Olympic victory in Lausanne with the mayor of Athens

suburb. "The bid had to be

powerful, and it had to be

gentle. It had to be attractive,

but it had not to be showy. I

think, through Alexis, we have

The Angelopoulos boys, Panagiotis and Di-

on the playing fields of the American School of London

because Theodore and Gianna

mitris, have the priv-

ilege of private schooling at the Hel-

lenic College of London; their sister,

Carolina, competes

and Angelopoulos at which it was agreed that if either bid dropped out before the final round, they would persuade their backers to support the other. Ultimately, Athens de-feated Rome 66-41, which included 14 of the votes previously cast for Cape Town. She says she has retired

from politics, although a re-'I was never negative

about the other bids'

cent opinion poll suggests that three-quarters of Greeks would vote for her as the next Prime Minister. "I don't think I will go back to that kind of politics. For me, the Olympic bid was an opportunity to do something for the whole of my country, and winning it offers something really unique for the younger people."

Angelopoulos feel that London offers the best lifestyle and Yet, it was a family outing to Athens that galvanised Angelopoulos into action. "We were there when the 1996 medalwinners came home," she said. "The people were so honoured, so proud. The whole of Athens waved laurels from the trees, and my sons, less than seven years old, said they want to be Olympic

> "I believe I am a winner, I don't like to lose, but I try to tell my children it is not only about victory — in real life there is a scale, a bottom line. a medium line and the very top." Raised on the island of Crete, Gianna and her younger sister both became lawyers. Their father, Frixos Daskalakis, made his own

champions.

and fruit trading, their mother Marika, though educated, was content in motherhood. "She is happy being a sweet grandmother." Angelopoulos

said, "even if she is proud that

fortune through economics

Indeed, her presentation I achieved at Harvard, after centred on a 12-year-old child, which I was a real performer Alexis, striving for athletic in the penal court and achievement in an Athens parliament

Angelopoulos believes in "catching the opportunities", and that this has less to do with womanhood than with human capability. "Its true, I was offered to lead the bid at the time Hillary Clinton was in Greece," she said, "but I am never the type to say women must have this or that percentage of representation. Life is effort, ability and you have to drive and you go after what you want to do. The Olympics? My God, I wanted to do it! I needed to do it! And I'm so very proud, so satisfied to have

The final speech, the performance Angelopoulos calls it, was a promise, implied but unspoken, to restore Olympic ethics to a now gargantuan circus, sullied by the soulless commercialism of Atlanta. "I was propelled by an incredible responsibility." she said Wherever I went, people said: We trust you, Gianna, you can do it. Today, even if I am alone in this house. I can feel thousands of people with me,

their enthusiasm." And will she now oversee the organisation of the Games. the acceleration of making Athens civilised again? "I com-pleted my task," she said. now I am full with halffinished jobs and responsibil-It is not, she acknowledges, the answer her people are waiting for and she is not yet ready to say, publicif she can now leave the baby she delivered on September 5 for others to bring to manurity.

RUGBY LEAGUE

New drive for coaching post

THE Rugby Football League is to advertise for a Director of Coach Education to improve its coaching system. The Rugby League joint policy board is hoping to fill the new post by early March. The move follows a coaching re-view funded by the English Sports Council and involving 40 of the game's leading

coaches. Sir Rodney Walker, chairman of the joint policy board, said: 'The coach education programme is fundamental to the board's vision, namely the realisation of the game's potential as one of the leading contact sports in Britain and Ireland."

TELEVISION CHOICE A savage winged predator The Wildlife Specials: Eagle 1BC1, 8.00pm The eagle may, as Sir David Attendary The majestic bird of

The eagle may, as Sir David Attenbrough tells us, be a majestic bird of prey noted for its strength and courage but as this splendidly shot film unravels, your sympathy lies more and more with the victims. Of course the eagle is an awesome creature and to follow the bird in full flight, as up-to-theminute technology enables us to do, is an exhibitrating experience. But it is good to see that little antelope get away from a savage predator in Africa and not nice to watch a golden eagle in Greece cracking open a tortoise's shell by dropping it on rocks from a great height. The film also tracks down eagles in Alaska, Japan and Australia but its rarest footage comes from the Philippines. That country is home to the world's tallest eagle and one of the heaviest but there are not many left and this tallest eagle and one of the heaviest but there are not many left and this is the first footage of them living in the wild for 20:

BBC2, 8.00pm

Showing off his latest exotic wheels, which belong to a Jaguar XKS, the manic cook heads for the We Country. His quarry is the Brooks family who have forsaken London for the peace of rural Somerset and established the country's only organic herbfarm. The plot is that the four Brooks children. aged two to 14 want to surprise Mum and Dad by cooking them a meal and have called in the culinary Bruce Forsyth to help. Tomato tarte tatin, seared scallops and clotted creme bruke make up the menu but, as always with Rhodes, style tends to triumph over content. If he has not been booked for a pantornime this Christmas he ought to have been. Rhodes also pops in to the hotel in Taunton where he made his name as a chef at the precocious

Modern Times Progress BBC2, 9.00pm

Jazz Notes

Radio 3, 12.30am

Getting pole position for the Promenade Concerts means lots of serious queueing and heaven help anybody who tries to buck the system. It used to get quite nasty until the Albert Hall put down a white tape to separate the true Prommers, who buy season tickets for the season, from those who turn



African fish eagle (BBCi, 8.00pm)

up on the day and are contemptuously dismissed as trippers. They even wear sandals and no socks, but tut. Helen Richards's delicious film is full of such nerdish snobbery, though there is something doggedly admirable about people prepared to camp round the clock to ensure their front row place for the Last Night. And better the Promoers than the corporate hospitality boxes where the evening is not about music (one company man admits to preferring Victoria Wood to Verdi) but entertaining clients.

Secret Lives: JFK

Those who have followed the Kennedy revelation industry over the years will doubt whether much of his life is still secret, and so, despite the best efforts. his life is still secret, and so, despite the best chorts of this feature-length investigation, it proves. Not that it isn't hugely entertaining, in a prurient way, to hear once more about JFK's sertal womanising and friends in the Mob, whose support may have swung enough votes to give him the presidency. If the film has anything new to offer it is in detail, not substance. Speaking for the first time, secret service men describe the President's sexual exploits and it emerges that a favourite Kennedy book was a life of Lord Melbourne, another statesman of high birth who liked the ladies. Kennedy's aides talk about living in fear that his indiscretions would be made public. The media would surely not Peter Waymark

WORLD SERVICE

RADIO CHOICE

Who Sings the Hero: Rosa Parks

I make a point of highlighting this programme a couple of times a year in the hope that Radio 3 will start putting it out at a time when most of its potential listeners are not in a club somewhere This is an absorbing series about women who found themselves in positions of extreme danger. Today's dramatisation is the story of Rosa Parks, a black seamstress living amid the entrenched racism of Alabama in the 1950s. On her way home listening to jazz, but I hold out little hope the network is more likely to move it to an even later spot and then close it down altogether on the ground that no one is listening. Oh well. To maintain the morbid tone I notice the programme from work one day, Parks was among the black women told to move out of the bus seats reserved for them because the seats for whites were full and more whites had got on the bus. Parks refused to move. The attention given to her arrest was to inspire Martin Luther King and it could be said that Rosa Parks launched the campaign that was to end segregation. Alibe Parsons plays Parks, Ray Shell is King and Clarke Peters is E.D. Nixon, the civil rights estimated. has been honouring the dead of late; Ronnie Scott last week and tonight Fletcher Henderson, who died in 1952 aged only 55, having already written the rulebook of big band arranging. This is the first of a two-part tribute to Henderson and it concludes

RADIO 1

8.00mm Newaday 6.30 Europa Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: The Grass is Singing 7.30 Mentional Live 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Westiany 8.30 Everywoman 9.00 News; News in German (648 only) 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 The Ferming World 9.30 Science Ris 9.45 Sport 10.00 News 19.30 One Planet 11.00 Newsciesk 11.30 Sports International 12.00 News 12.05 price World Business Report 12.15 British Today 12.30 Wildrack 12.45 Sport 1.00 Newschour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Megamix 3.00 News; News in German (648 only) 3.05 Sport 3.15 Performance 3.30 Everywomen 4.00 News 4.15 From Our Own Correspondent 4.30 The World Today; News in German (648 only) 4.45 Entain Today 5.00 Europa Today 5.30 World Business Report 6.46 Sport 6.00 Newsciesk 6.30 The World Today; News 1.00 News 9.06 World Business Report 9.15 British Today 9.30 On Screen 10.00 Newsciesk 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.85 Cuttook 11.30 Multitrack X-Prass 12.00 Newsciesk 12.30ens From Our Own Correspondent 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsciesk 1.30 Omnibus 2.00 Newsciesk 2.20 Newsciesk 1.30 Omnibus 2.00 Newsciesk 2.20 Meridien Books 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sport 3.30 Journey to the Center of the Atom 3.45 Criddra In Corpus 10.00 Newsciest 4.20 Report 5.00 Newscies 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newscies 4.20 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa Today 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Europa 5.00 Newsciesk 4.20 Eu 6.30mm Kevin Greening, Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Meyo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00 Mark Raccitte 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Session 6.30 Trade Update 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anna Hobbs 1.00mm Citve Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

8.00em Serah Kannedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbis Throwar 3.00 Ed Stewest S.06 John Dunn 7.00 Garth Brooks in Concert 8.00 Folk on 2 9.00 The Meliotron 9.30 John Mortimer Presents Found on 2 sub-ine Mesourer sub-John Morenne Fresens Semedonal Bittish Trials 10.00 Auntie's Family Album 10.30 Richard Alimon 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

test Programme 9.00 David Mellor 12.00 Mickley 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwich 7.00 New

Botta 7.30 Football Night 10.00 Utilejohn 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After House 2.00ass Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports VIRGIN RADIO

5.00em Jeremy Clerk 7.00 Chris Evens 10.00 (FHI) Robin Banics (AM) Grahem Dene 1.00pm (FHI) Nick Abbot (MNI) Nicky Home 4.00 Russ 'n' Jono 7.00 (FHI) Paul Coyte (AM) Celmin Jones 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00em Richard Porter

6.30mm Paul Rose and Carol McGiffin 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Loreine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dealey 7.00 Anna Raebum 9.00 James Whale 1.00mm lan Collins

6.00mm Alian Mann 9.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Listener Request Hour 2.00 Concerto. Richard Strauss (Horn Concerto No 2 in E 1st) 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.30 Newsright 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven 8.00 Evening Concert. Totalkovsky (String Quartet No 1 in D); Feuré (Requiern); Brahms (Symphony No 4) 10.00 Michael Mappin, Includes at 11.35 Noctume 2.00mm Concerto (f) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

Statistics of

Journey to the Centre of the Atom 3.45 Children in Conversation 4.00 Newedesk 4.30 Europe Today 5.00

6.00 cm On Air, with Stephanie Hughes, including Strauss (Weltz The Blue Danube); Mozart (Schneibe Füsse; Es Lebe Serestro, Die Zauberföte); Seint-Seins (Tarantelle)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday, Shostakovich (Jazz Suite No 1); Butterworth (Loveliest of Trees, A Shropshire Lad)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mary Miller. Vivaldi

(Lovefiest of Trees, A Shropshire Lad)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mary Miler. Vivaidi
(Viola d'Amore Concerto in A); McEwen (The
Demon Lover); Lora Aborn (Majka Me an
Instrument of Thy Peace)

1.2.00 Composer of the Weelc Prolediev

1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from
St Augustine's Church, Birmingham. The
ensemble I Pagloin't performs Reneissance and
early-Baroque Christmas music including please
by Ludwig Senfi. Byrd and Lassus

2.00 Midweek Choles, with Susen Sharpe

4.00 Choral Evertappon Live from St Ride's Church

2.00 Midweek Choice, with Susen Sterpe
4.00 Choral Evensong. Live from St Bride's Church,
Fleet Street, London
5.00 in Tune, with Seen Refferty
6.00 Rush Hour Concert: Volces at the Wigmore
Half, Iain Burnside presents vocal recitals

6.00 Resh Hour Concert: voices as ure Hall, Isin Burnside presents vocal reci

7.00 CocidaBa, Includes recordings of Jack Jackson and his Orchestra at the Dorchester Hotel (r)
7.30 Performance on 3. Dmint Silkovetsky, violin, BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mariss Jansons. Flossini (Overtura William Tell); Brahms (Violin Concerto In D); Mendelsachn (Symphony No 3 in A minor, Scottish)
9.15 Postscript Role Play. Michael Billington talks to Bear of Bron and Julier Stevenson (3/4) (r)
9.40 Benjamin Britten. Recordings made at the 1977 Aldeburgh Festivel featuring the Northern Sintonia conducted from the harpsichord by Steuart Bedford

Bedford

10.00 Ensemble. Penny Gore introduces a rectal by
Lorraine McAstan, violin, and Nigel Clayton, plano.
Suk (Four Pleces): Saint-Seëns (Violin Sonata No
1 in D minor)

10.45 Night Waves. Includes a report from the world
premiere, in London, of Stephen Sondheim's first
musical, Saturday Night

11.30 Composer of the Weelt Goeltr (r)

12.30sm, Jazz Notes. See Choice

1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing
6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30
Today 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Middweek, with the Times columniat
Lbby Purves and her guest Rosemary Verey
10.00 (FM) News; The Garden (2/4)
10.00 (LW) News; The Garden (2/4)
10.00 (LW) News; Delity Service
10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Muney
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours, with John Welte
12.25pan Ballylenon (3/4) 12.55 Weather
1.00 World at One, with Nick Clarks
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Who Sings the Hero; Rosa Parks. See
Choice (3/3)
2.45 Treasure Islands, with Michael Rosen
3.00 News; The Atternoon Shiff, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News; The Atternoon Shiff, with Daire Brehan

2.45 Treasure Islands, with Michael Rosen
 3.00 News The Atternoon Shift, with Daire Brehen
 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleldoscope. Paul Gambaccini sees two films based on carboon characters — George of the Jungle and Prince Vallant
 4.45 Short Story: A Christmas Card to One and Ali,

by Penelope Livety, read by Brigit Forsyth

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Stx O'Clock News 6.30 Wildbrain (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Mystarious Ways. The Times columnist Libby
Purves concludes her exploration into the legacy
of a Christian mileonium (8/6)
8.05 A Night with — Mary Coughtan (a/6)
8.30 Glants' Shoulders. The Times columnist Melvyn
Bragg talks to Stephen Jay Gould, Daniel Dennett
and Richard Dawkins about Charles Darwin (6/6)
9.00 Costing the Earth (5/6)
9.00 Costing the Earth (5/6)
9.00 Costing the Earth (5/6)
9.00 Raleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtimes Candide, by Voltaire (8/8)
11.00 (FM) The (Almost) Accidental Adventures of
Bell and Todd. John Eggleston's comedy
adventure starting June Whitheld (2/6)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parlisment
11.30 Harry Hilf's Fruit Conter (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Coversations
with My Agent, Written by Rob Long (3/5)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1, FM 97.6-96.8, RADIO 2, FM 86.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198; MW 720, RADIO 8 LIVE MW 693, 909, WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.558m). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102, VIRIGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1089.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39 VAVASOUR

(b) A feudal tenant ranking immediately below a baron. Blacks 1766: "William the Conqueror directing a certain quantity be paid by earls, barons and vavasours respectively."

(a) Either of two stable leptons (associated with electron or meson), having zero mass and low probability of interaction with matter. Also the anti-particle of either of these, one of which is produced

PENTHEMIMER

(b) In Classical verse, a group or catalytic colon of five half-feet, especially as constituting each half of a pentameter or the first part of a bexameter where the caesura occurs in the middle of the third foot. Lorna Doone, R. D. Blackmore, 1869: "I had replied to Robin now with all the might and cadence of a pentheminal caesura."

(c) A rich, thick silk, with a dull satin face on both sides. The term is also applied to various inferior imitations. It is now used chiefly in the trade to designate the imitations called Rhadzinirs. The Times

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

beside an electron and proton in B' decay of a neutron.

1958: "The bride wore a pearl-coloured peau-de-soie with a train." 1 ... Nf3+! 2 gxf3 Bxd4+ 3 cxd4 Qxb5 and Black wins.

Win bottled bliss

champagne: what more could possibly be desired by anyone with sporting blood in the veins? Once again, The Times is able to offer bottled bliss, in the form of Nicolas Feuillatte champagne, to anyone who contributes a Magic Number this Christmas.

A Magic Number is one that carries immense sporting weight and every year throws up new numbers.

How about 78, 0, and 0? These are the numbers for Michael Schumacher: the 78 points he was docked for crashing into Jacques Villeneuve, the zero points he was left with and the zero fine he was given for this potentially lethal assault. I will judge the numbers for their champagne-worthiness. Entries



The Sports Desk. The Times,

London El 9XN or by fax to 0171 782 5211.



l Pennington Street.

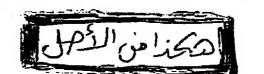
The final collection is to be published shortly after Christ-

should be sent to me at: mas, so do it soon.

GOLD MINING, DRILLING & EXTRACTING. in south africa, a woman's work is never done.



GOLDEN GIRLS SOUTH AFRICA'S FEMALE GOLD MINERS. TONIGHT AT 10 PM.



A nice little runner with two careful owners

هڪذار من رالإمل

tenant on every square IVI inch of tarmac. Their nocturnal lairs are so elusive in London that estate agents droof over their up-and-over mechanisms and sell them at bedsit prices. Yet television was for many vears strangely coy about transport's ultimate manifestation and even now the medium affords it

only a single permanent gheno. That spot, Top Gear on BBC 2, has created a superstar motormouth in Jeremy Clarkson, the first television personality to speak in capital letters since the advent of Murray Walker. The strange propensity to utter the second half of a Wheels takes real people with real sentence as if it revealed the winner of the Booker Prize "... and the double wishbone suspension is ... ABSO-LUTELY GORGEOUS") is a peculiarity of motoring television and has now spread from Clarkson to all his Top Gear colleagues.

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LETT

CARD

is its weakness. As in the Premier ship and the House of Commons, ed by the mimble of foot and mind. Deals on Wheels (Channel 4) does just that. Last night was the end of its present series but it will be back next year.

This programme is not about double wishbone suspension (please do not bandy that phrase on dealers' forecourts, I may have imagined it), except in the sense that such bits of gear could be susceptible to rot or rust. Deals on cars to sell, brings on a couple of experts to do a bit of caveat emptor on the bodywork and the engine nothing about cars), debate averand then films the actual sale. age mileages, fuel consumption or There is a superficial touch of

car-wise professionals who pull.

but it does tend to be about cars, them, but Sumon is decidedly uprather than their owners, and that market of Peckham and if you offered Brewer a Reliant Robin hewould probably grow plants in it. weaknesses are there to be exploit. These two know their motors:

he three they knew last night were a Triumph Spitfire, value £4,000, sold for £3,900, a VW Beetle valued at and sold for £3,250 and a Ford Flesta, asking price £2,600, sold for £2,500. The most interesting deal was the Fiesta, because it involved a woman selling to two other women. Unlike men, women who know nothing about cars tend to say so. They do not kick tyres (the sure sign of a man who knows a tendency to roll in corners. In Del-boy and Rodney about Mike Clarkson-speak: If they Brewer and Richard Sutton, the it. THEY JUST BUY FF.

The mother and daughter who





Peter Barnard

bought the Fiesta liked the look of it, found that it drove all right, did a bit of nominal haggling and that was that. Men buying from men is another matter. Rituals have to be gone through, although in the examples on offer at least one of the buyers was mesmerised by the There is an area of television

programming that is about as far from second-hand car dealing as it represented with some distinction by Timewatch (BBC 2). Last night's In Search of Cleopatra was a sumptuous example of the programme's diligence. I have given up trying to work out whether Timewatch is actually finding a new slant on established history: I just sit there and enjoy it. This was not an attempt either to reinforce or undermine Cleopatra's reputation for great beauty. The picture here was of a woman consumed with (and ultimately by) her love of Egypt and her determination to protect it from suitors.

Her affairs with Julius Caesar cameras. He was not going to and Mark Antony were here haggle on television. And the chap portrayed as the sacrifice by buying the Triumph had to admit "Cleopatra of her own physical that his present car was a Ford integrity in order to make accom-

Orion, at which point he almost modations which would protect DIED OF EMBARRASSMENT. modations which would protect the integrity of Egypt. But 1 the integrity of Egypt. But I suppose the most intriguing point. though again by no means a new one, is the possibility that Cleopais possible to get and this area is tra was a black African. In the genealogy there is a question mark against Cleopatra's grandmother, so she could have been black, a theory of special interest among black American educators, as Timewatch demonstrated by attending a college class.

> leopatra, Vanessa Feltz, Danny La Rue: as with a self-catering holiday bought at the last minute, you never know whom you are going to fetch up next to in this column. Vanessa's Day With (Channel 5) contained no revelations or insights about Danny La Rue because Feltz does not engage with people, she sort hangs around smiling at them. This is Hello!

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (54807)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (67825)

(51481794)

9.00 Something So Right (42291)

9.30 You're My Everything (1949) A romantic musical starring Anne Baxter and Dan Dailey set at the end of the silent move

11.05 Bless This House American comedy.

11.30 Powerhouse Political magazine (T) (9494) 12.00 Sesame Street (39727) 12.30pm Light Lunch (r) (6134833) 1.35 Barbershop (b/w) A W.C. Fields short

2.00 The Mouse on the Moon (1963) starring

Margaret Rutherford, Ron Moody and Terry-Thomas, A satirical comedy about

3.30 Collectors' Lot An Elvis collection and

Pet Rescue (T) (253)

6.00 Gamesmaster Computer games

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (408524)

magazine presented by Dominik

6.30 Rossamme The Connor household is

old baker friend of Dan's (r) (T) (748)

7.50 Schubert Shorts Claron McFadden

performs Helden Rostein (163272)

8.00 Brookside Why are Ron and David

8.30 The Real Hollday Show The last in the series includes reports from Ottawa, Cannes and camping in the Loire Valley

changing their image? Did Barry have something to do with Peter being mugged? What will Jacqui do without her cash? (T) (7814)

an impoverished Middle European state

that sends a rocket fuelled by fermenting

wine to the Moon. Richard Lester directs

bagpipes (T) (982) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (807) 4.30 Countdown (T) (2488727) 4.55 Ricki Lake. Today's guests feel let

down by the pertners (T) (5867253) 5.30

Diamond with Patrick Moore (5/10) (T)

thrown into turnoil with the arrival of an

era. Directed by Walter Lang (56962794)

Includes a guest appearance by Elaine Striich (r) (8672272)

But La Rue is beyond being disliked. He is not only the best of the female impersonators: he is the most acceptable, because - as he said here - what he does is confined to the stage. He does not allow anyone to see him in the transitional stage and, most significantly, he does not parade under a different name on stage. His is a

one-item agenda.

La Rue is nudging 70 and he has been in showbusiness for 50 years. He is doing pantomime again this year, in Southampton, where he also lives with a daft dog and memories. He took Feltz to the Roman Catholic church where he worships; the priest lets him have

He may be a bit of a luvvie but when he says: "I haven't knowingly in 70 years hurt anybody, I love my work and I thank God for every day," you could roll your eyes, but you could also believe him. I believe him.

BBC1 6.00em Business Breakfast (15307) 7.00 BBC Brenkfast News (1) (10765) 9.00 Good Living (1069678) 9.25 Style Challenge (1048185) 9.50 Kilroy [1] (2786475) 19.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1556340) 10.55 The Really Useful Show (8555814) 11.35 Change That (3771765) 12.00 News (T) and weather (9295272) 12.05pm Call My Bluff (2406765) 12.35 Give tis A Clue (5179253) 1.00 News (I) and weather (80524) 1.30 Regional News (17248494) 1.40 The Weather Show (86142253) 1.45 Neighboure (T) (41586348) 2.10 Petrocell (r) (1857098)

3.00 Vets in Practice (r) (1) (3475) 3.30 Playdays (7505562) 3.50 ChuckleVision (7592098) 4.10 Get Your Own Back (3127678) 4.35 Out of Tune (2494388) 5.00 Newsround (1) (6223775) 5.10 Blue Peter. The Advent Crown and a glant cracker (1) (6194611) 5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (359901)

6,00 News (1) and weather (456) 6.30 Regional News (956) 7.00 Face Value The Spice Girls' own range of clothing; feshior on the ski slopes. Last in

7.30 Tomorrow's World How the shortage of charch organs could be solved by a smell box of electrical tricks; Santa Claus using the internet (T) (920)

Eagle: A Wildlife Special David Altenborough introduces viewers to the beautiful but violent world of birds of prey, including the first film of Philippine segles in the wild for 20 years (T) (202307)

8.45 The National Lottery Draw With Carol Smille (731982) 9.00 News (T) Regional News and weather

9.30 Absolutely Fabrilous: The Last Shour! Edina returns from a neer-death experience and becomes a different nerson: but will she buill a mother's chil as Saffy prepares for her wedding? With Jennifer Saunders, Joanna Lumley and Julia Sawatha (2/2) (r) (1) (516494)

10.14 National Lottery Update (152307) 10,15 The X Flies: Kaddish Mulder and Scully investigate the death of a thug seamingly killed by legendary Jewish monster the Golden Devid Duchovny and Gillen Anderson (656746)

11.00 immation of the Body Snatchers (1978) Donald Sutherland, Brooke Adams, Georgian Nimoy and Jett Goldbirm star in this remake of the classic sci-fi thriller Earth and produce reolics human beings diff. no will of their own. Dire Philip Keutman (640901) WALES: 11.00 Fighting Class: Profile of Pontypridd-born boxer Freddie Welsh (7036) 11.30 FILM: invasion of the Body Snetchers (695611) 1.25am Weather (9505437), 1.30 BBC

1,00 BBC News 24

Saturday's Vision

Virtualities and the Video PiceCodes Viceo-us-r and tre trosp residence.
The eumbers ned to each TV programme:
Reing are Video PlusCode " numbers, which
allow you to programme your video recorded;
insteady with a Video-Plus - " trendset. Tap in
the Video PlusCode for the programme you
with to record. Video-plus + ("), Pluscode (")
and Video Programmer are tradematic of
Gematis: Development Ltd. 6.00em Technology: Information Technology and Society (13949) 7.00 See Hear Brankfast Nesra (r) (1)

BBC2

(3071562)7.15 Teletubbles (f) (2268562) 7.40 Yakky Duck (f) (8628123) 8.05 it'll Never Work (f) (f) (6813340) 8.30 Model Mille (f) (8217765) 8.45 The Record (2541140) 9.10 The Fugitive (f) (f) (1628562) 10.00 Teletubbles (72017)

10.30 The Errand Boy (1961) Cornedy written, directed by and starring Jerry Lewis (79452663)

12.05pm The Phil Silvers Show (3191185) 12.30 Working Lunch (r) (64901) 1.00 Nodely (r) (50343982) 1.10 Hammer it Home (73410369) 1.30 A River Somewhere: Fly-fishing on the River Althahana in Scotland (63272) 2.00 Take a Meal With: Bordeaux (r) (92592678) 2.15 Going, Going, Gone: special festive edition (45988123) 2.40 News (T) (7651630) 2.45 Westminster: Prime Minister's Questions (T) (4654104) 3.55 News (T) (9677475)

4.00 Ready Steady Cook (949) 4.30 Through the Keyhole (2493659) 4.55 Esther: partners v pets (5872185) 5,30 Today's 6.00 Star Treic The Next Generation (r) (1)

6.45 Silders (253901)

7.30 A Date with an Artist Junior doctors collaborate with painter Julie Roberts; Jessica Voorsanger plans a tribute to Blackpool FC. Last in series (1) (562) Gary-Rhodes A meal for a family with an organic herb farm, Last in series (T) (2746)

8.30 Home Front A children's play area in. Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital. Redecorating a living room (T) (1253)



Modern Times: Prommers Insight into the unique culture of the Promenade Concert fanatics. Last in series (T) (233123)

9.50 Trouble at the Top An enterprising scheme to reverse the fortunes of Relian Motors (f) (T) (767291) WALES: Picture This 10.20-10.30 X Philes 10.30 Newsnight (T) (604543)

11.15 Prison Weekly Comparing the British and Dutch prison systems. Last in series 11.45 A Woman Called Smith (r) (205611)

11.55 Weather (469982) 12,00 The Midnight Hour (52692)

12.30em Learning Zone: Eve Arnold . (8459321) 12.45 20th Century Women (6336586) 1.10 The Gentle Sex? (4406925) 1.35 Gender Matters: Woman in the developing world (8011296) 2.00 Movie Making (96215) 4.00 Languages (72437) 5.00 Business and Training 6.00am GMTV (2554036)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (1057833) 9.55 Regional News (7800475) 10.00 The Time, the Place (69543) 10.30 This Morning (1) (97392765) 12.20pm Regional News (1) (9209475) 12.30 News (T) and weather (5105678)

12.55 Shortland Street (T) (5180369) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (73419530) 1.50 Quisine (T) (38431479) 2.20 Countdown to Christmas (45963814) 2.50 Venessa: I Had to Steal (T) (4810765) 3.20 News (T) (2818843) 3.25 Regional News (1) (3268384)

3.30 Tobs TV (2932833) 3.40 The Singing Kettle News (8071475) 3.50 Old Bear Christmas Special (1589456) 4.20 Animeniacs (7538494) 4.40 Ari Attack Christmas Cracker (7441320)

5.10 WALES: Primetime Diary (9174949) 5.10 World of Wonder (9174949) 5,40 News (T) and weather (532307) 6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (524) 6.30 Regional News (104) 7.00 Emmerdale Jack and Serah bury the

hatchet for the day in order to go to Robert's play (1) (7104) 7.30 Coronation Street Judy faces an ultimatum from Zoe (1) (388) 8.00 Des O'Connor Tonight with the Spice Girls, Dame Edna Everage and the cornection Allstat McGowan (7765)



Clint Eastwood stars (9,00pm)

9.00 Unforgiven (1992) Starring and directed by Clint Eastwood. Western about a reformed murdener who set where the set of the set o eformed murderer who rejuctantly agrees to one more killing. Long settled into a peaceful life with his two children, he is coaxed out of retirement by a young gun who wants his help to collect a bounty. Also stars Gene Hackman and

Morgan Freeman (T) Continues after the News (7901) 10.00 News (T) weather and Lottery Result (32814)

10.30 Regional News (T) (917271) 10.40 FILM: Unforgiven Conclusion of tonight's film (7696962) 12.05am Movie Show Special (5961963)

12.30 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (3762692) 1.05 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (r)

(4862760)1.25 The Night of the Generals (1967) with Orner Sharif, Torn Courtenay and Peter O'Toole. A Second World War whodunit attempts to identify the man responsible for a series of murders. Directed by Anatole Litvak (32727429)

3.65 Customs Classified (r) (4744654) 4.35 The Time, the Place (r) (79989012) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (80050) 5.30 News (57147)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (5180359) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9174949) 6.25-7.00 Central News (763678) 12.05am Film: Cactus Flower (136741) 2.05 Pavarotti in Modena 1996 (5361963) 3.00 Central Jobfinder '97 (77608925) 5.20 Asian Eye (4395673)

WESTCOUNTRY As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 lituminations (9291456)

12.55 Home and Away (7299659) 1.20-1.50 Enumerdale (30084712) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9174949) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (76746) 12,00am Short Story Cinema (56418)

WERIOLAN ... As HTV West except:

1.50pm-2.20 The Fashion (38431479) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9174949)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (524) 6.30-7.00 Meridian Focus (104) 12.00em Weekly World News (56418) 5.00 Freescreen (80050)

ANGLIA As HTV West except:

12.54 Anglia Air Wetch (82383765) 12.55-1.25 What's My Line? (5180369) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9174949) 6.23 Anglia Weather (253814) 6.25-7.00 Anglie News (763678) 10.29 Anglia Air Watch (401185) 12.00am Tales from the Darkside (56418)

7.8c Starts: 7.00 The Big Breekfast (67825) 9.00 Something So Fight (42291)

musical romance starring Anne Baxter and Dan Dailey (56962794) 11.05 Bless This House (8672272) 11.30 Powerhouse (9494) 12.00 Sesame Street (39727) 12.30pm Ricki Lake (66369) 1.00 Slot Melthrin (50352630) 1.15 Tie Tec (50357185)

1.30 Gardens Without Borders (17222456) 1.45 Film: Twelve Angry Men (1957, b/w). Classic jury drama starring Henry Fonda and Lee J. Cobb. Directed by Sidney Lumut (91419543) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (982)

4.00 Pifteen to-One (807) 4.30 Pantoland (901) 5.00 5 Pump (9071104) 5.15 Fiell (1931758) 5.30 Countdown (253) 6.00 Newyddion (749038) 6.10 Heno (864746)

7.00 Pobol y Cwm (464253) 7.25 Glanlad Y Firencod (400017) 8.00 Siopa (7814) 8.30 Newyddion (6949) 9,00 Cracker (5543) 10.00 Brookside (910456)

11.30 Lloyds Bank Film Challenge (831920)

12.10em-4.30 Under the Moon (72529760)

10.35 Babylon 5 (197678)

10.30 Beautiful Thing (1995) staming Glen Berry and Scott Neal. The story of under-age gay love that biossoms on a tough age gay love that blossoms on a tough

Macdonald (T) (87422104) 12.10am Under the Moon Sports magazine presented by Danny Kelly and Torn Birns featuring American football highlights of the match between San Francisco and Denver (72529760) 4.30 Soringhill Drama sal on a Liverpool

Secret Lives: JFK The story of John Fitzgerald Kennedy's

private life: his allegedly insatiable need

London council estate. Directed by Hettle

or sex and amphetamines (T) (9630)

housing estate (2415147) 5.35 Schools: Geographical Eye (r) (T) CHANNEL 5

Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound:

6,00am 5 News Early (4252123) 7.30 Milkshake! (7532982) 7.35 Adventures

of the Bush Patrol (r) (9124475) 8,00 Havakazoo (r) (9706889) 8.30 WideWorld: Fragile Planet How sea (4/10) (4651730)

9.00 Espresso 10.00 Exclusive (r) (4451814) 10.30 Vanessa's Day With Danny La Rue (r) (T) (8121054)

11.00 Leeza Chat show hosted by Leeza Gibbons (3370036) 11.50 Double Espresso (90936307) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (6556366) 12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (1552272) 1.00 5 News Update (88894562) 1.05 Sunset

Beach (T) (4145494) 2.00 5's Company (3340272)

3.30 King of the Roaring Twenties — The Story of Amold Rothstein (1961, b/w) starring David Janssen. The story of the rise and tall of a New York gambling supremo. With cameos from Mickey Rooney and Diana Dors. Directed by Joseph M. Newman (4223611)

5.30 Whittle Quiz game with audience participation (T) (4718036) 6.00 100 Per Cent Quiz game wilhout a host

6.30 Family Affairs The runaways, Charlotte and Liam, are taken in by a stranger (T)

7.00 Exclusive Snowbiz gossip (5167814) 7.30 Empire of the Elephant The birds and big game of Botswana's Okavango swamps (2/7) (T) (4795185)

8.00 Instant Gerdens William Van Hage and the team continue to tackle a windswep! Comish coast garden (5176562)

8.30 5 News (T) (5162369)



Scarabelli and Pierpoint (9.00pm) 9.00 Alien Nation: Dark Horizon A sci-fi drama about an alien race whose existence on Earth is threatened by a racist human organisation. Eric Pierpoint, Michelle Scarabelll and Terri Treas

10.50 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (1613562) 11.35 Prisoner: Cell Block H (2472659)

12.35am Live and Dangerous includes American college football and basketball (46622586) 4,35 The Streets of San Francisco (T)

(5887437) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (7044012)

SATELLITE AND CABLE Die, Digistent, Die (1985) (335017) 11.40 Mittle Witneam (1985) (433734) 1.20em Portino Moon (1994) (138437) 2.10 Dissa, (Clembry: Teastester (1996) (3017344) 4.45 Aladdin and His, Magic Lump (1995) (7052505) TV (81320456) 2.00 Superbouts (676 • For further listings see

SKY 1 6.00em Morning Glory (425185) 9.00 Hotel. (85678) 10 Do Acotros World (44740 11 DO 6.00mm Morring Glory (425/185) 9.00 Hotel. (855/18) 19.00 Another Wolfd (44748) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (24982) 12.00 Oprain Wintry (90340) 1.00pm Genato (16388) 2.00 Sally Jessy Ropries (13388) 3.00 Jepty Jones (18814) 4.00 Oprain Watery (18948) 5.00 Sar Triek Voyager (2901) 6.00 Dream Teem (8281) 6.00 Marriad with Children (6543) 7.00 The Simpsons (3630) 210 De-211 (6702) 6.00 Marriad (5801) SKY MOVIES GOLD 4.00pm Morning Glory (1933) (8747291) 4.00 The Ballad of Cable Hogge (1970) 4886(938) 8.00 Some Kind of Wonderful (1987) (4881543) 18.00 The Fury (1973) (880081-9: 12.00 Lady in Cement (1964) (7881876) 1.35em The Talk of the Town (1942) (8254215) 3.35 Morning Glory (1933) (55433012) 4.45 Close 7.30 Real Ty (5.727) 8.00 Nigroman (53017) 10.00 Brits Uncovered (38524) 11.00 Star 7ek. Yoyager (45475) 12.00 Late Show (31708) A.00em in the Heat of the Night

5.00pm Tressure Island (1999) (90075123) 11.20 Biby the Kid (1941) (85828745) 1.00mm Eye of the Devil (1967) (69441234) 2.35 Tressure Island (1969) (38608166) 5.00 Close 68925) 2.00 Long Play (5035166) SKY BOX OFFICE Stey's pay-per-view movie channels. To view july film telephone 0990 80088 Each film tests (2.38) per viewing

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 25) 7,00em Sports Centre (67611) 7,30 Wres-7.00em Sports Centre (071) / 20 1/82 tang (19630) 8.30 Sports Centre (87901) 8.00 Racing News (78253) 9.30 Aerobics (16543) 10.00 The Footbalers Footbal Show (7830) 11.00 BMX (95494) 12.00 Aerobics (96017) 12.30pm Bg Fight Countdown (25859) 1.00 Pcol (13814) 2.00 Mary (1996) SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) -Rogie All the Way (1994) Sky BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) The Park Wheet Clab (1996) Aerobics Section (25838) 1.00 Pool (13314) 2.00 The Footballers' Football Strow (51562 3.00 Football (8349) 4.30 V-Max (7543) 5.00 Wresting (8255) 8.00 Sports Centre (8388) 8.30 Big Fight Countdown (8389) 7.00 Pool (263272) 10.00 Sports Centre (8389) 7.00 Pool (263272) 10.00 Sports Centre (8389) 7.00 Pool (263272) 10.00 Sports Centre (8389) 7.00 Pool (263272) 10.00 Sports Centre (8389) 7.00 Pool (263272) 10.00 Sports Centre (8389) 7.00 Pool (263272) 10.00 Sports Centre (8389) 7.00 Pool (263272) 10.00 Sports Centre (8389) 7.00 Pool (263272) 10.00 Sports Centre (8389) 7.00 Pool (263272) 10.00 Sports Centre (8389) 7.00 Pool (263272) 10.00 Sports Centre (8389) 7.00 Pool (263272) 10.00 Sports Centre (8389) 7.00 Pool SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1 5.00mm Desert Strong (1988) (34120307) 7.40 Old What a Lovely War (1989) (7571368) 19.80 Panic in the Sides (200 POD (2052/2) 10.00 Sports Centre (2725) 10.00 Big Fight Countdown (20574) 11.00 Fabol Mundai (41524) 11.30 Sports (55017) 12.00 Sports Centre (47705) 12.00 PDO (2776321) 2.30 Sports Centre (2726) 12.30 PDO (2776321) 825) 11.30 When Thee Ram Out

3,30 Sports Centre (59316) 4,00 Close SKY SPORTS 2 SKY SPORTS 2

7.00 Aerobics (9602678) 7.30 Sports
Centre (9681195) 8.00 Resing News
(54137340) 8.30 Fish TV (7153054) 9.50
International National (2343727) 10.30 Proci
(1542901) 11.30 Windburfing (3310727)
12.30pm FA Cup (3315272) 2.00 Cachet
(4014348) 6.00 Rebel Sports (7419123)
7.06 Sports Centre (2008475) 7.30 FootInstit England LEZ v Genece UZ1 — Live
(4403899) 10.00 Sports USA (6003652)
11.30 Rebel Sports (4712475) 12.30em
Footbell (303893) 2.30 Sports Centre
(SP71437) 3.00 CloseSECV SPORTS 3 SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2 8.20mm Debilitionly Tours (1948) \$7730201 J.D.O. The Seats Prisonal 11809 (1962) TD.O. The Seats Prisonal 11809 (1962) TD.O. The Warder Trapped on Toy World (1985) (1229) 1220 Y.D. Walls of Jettlero (1945) 12809 2.00mm The Sandil of Starymood Form (1946) 55740 4.05 Hert to Hart. Then Harts in 34 Time (1958) 5475 6.00 Substanting (1998) 60329 8.00 Cub-breist (1998) 14277 10:00 Darksons ID:

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00pm Wresting (81344036) 1.00 Fish

TV (51320-50) 2.00 Suparto (52011942) 3.35 a.00 The Flood to Negarto (52011942) 3.35 loe Wars (12712514) 5.00 Netball: England New Zealand (19487794) 6.00 Pool (51333820) 7.00 Fish TV (18037253) 7.30 Chicket (50856727) 11.30 Close ELLIDOS (20050727) 11.30 Close EUROSPORT

7.30em Eurogosis (24562) 9.00 World Cup Dream Team (49479) 9.30 FFA Federa-tions Cup (2008) 11.00 Speedworld Magazinis (80562) 12.00 Wheeles Maga-zine (23185) 12.30pm Freestyle Stiling (10727) 1.00 Weer Stiling (S3122) 2.00 FFA Federations Cup (4650) 3.00 Foot-balt United Arab Emirates v Czach Depublica User (54575) 5.00 Footbalt ball: United: Arab Emirates v Crach Republic — Live (75475) 5.00 Football: Ungrasy South Africa — Live (59838) 7.00 Timeter Pulling (96833) 8.00 Booking: Lennox Lewis v Andrew Golds (71259) 9.00 Deris (91017) 10.00 Football (29036) 11.30 Motorcycling (66727) 12.30am Close UK GOLD ...

7,00am Bullsaye (4338659) 7.35 Neighbours (4115524) 8.00 Crossroots (2280833) 8.25 EastEnders (8837066) 9.00 The Bill (6386455) 9.00 Howards Way (9846089) 10.00 Blass This House (1414659) 70.30 The Sullivens (8025340) 11.00 Boon (8081746) 12.00 Crossrodds (46162679) 12.25 pm. Neighbours (46126679) 12.55 EastEnders (2057386) 1.30 14-0c-14 (4242307) 2.10 Yes Minister restraces 2.50 2.50 the Summer Wine 2.50 Crossroods 2.50 2.50 2.50 2.50 Yes Minister Restraces 2.50 2.50 2.50 Yes Minister Wine 2.50 2.50 2.50 Yes Minister Wine 2.50 2.50 2.50 Yes Minister Wine 2.50 2.50 2.50 Yes Minister Wine 2.50 2.50 2.50 Yes Minister Wine 2.50 2.50 2.50 Yes Minister Wine 2.50 2.50 2.50 Yes Minister Wine 2.50 2.50 2.50 Yes Minister Wine 2.50 2.50 2.50 Yes Minister Wine 2.50 2.50 2.50 Yes Minister Wine 2.50 2.50 Yes Office 2.50 Yes Minister Wine 2.50 2.50 Yes Office 2.50 Yes Minister Wine 2.50 2.50 Yes Office 2.50 Yes Minister Wine 2.50 Yes Office 2 1.36 Hi-De-Hi (4248307) 2.10 Yes Alinteter (6512949) 2.50 Lest of the Summer Wine (9371340) 3.30 The BB (3803104) 4.00 Juliet Bravo (38630907) 5.05 EastEnders (1794291) 5.60 Bob's Full House (4182765) 6.25 There's Showbushness (5082330) 7.00 Lest of the Summer Wine (8372889) 7.45 Don't Wart Up (9688455) 6.20 Yes Minister (8448207) 9.00 The BE (1827259) 9.30 Fullie Taggart the Minister Regular (8492291) 11.05 Liber at Jonglans (4238524) 11.40 Nakad Video (9706562) 11.20 Marrit (2118400 Charlet (8098298) 1.06 Marrit (2118400 Charlet (8098298) 1.06 Marrit (8098298) 1.0 12.15mm Chancer (9039298) 1.05 Marts Vice (2501789) 2.05 Shopping (84618789)

GRANADA PLUS 8.00am The Box (8039814) 7.00 Corone-tion St (5453369) 7.30 Farniles (8465104) 8.00 Blind Date (8069123) 9.00 Within These Wats (8221494) 10.00 Donahus (8461388) 11.00 Heat to Hert (8441524) 12.00 Coronation St (8084746) 12.30pm Families (2357801) 1.00 On the Buses (8445340) 1.00 Piesse Srt (2356272) 2.00 The Good Guye (780562) 3.00 Donahus (7194104) 4.00 Mission Impossible (7173611) 5.00 Hawaii Fivs-O (3658017)



5.00 Families (7221578) 6.30 Coronation St. (7205630) 7.00 (Bind Date (9941475) 10.00 Hexasi Five O (8787122) 11.00 Close

CARLTON SELECT (cable) 5.00pm Gridiock (20732681) 5.90 Hey Dad II (28560543) 6.00 Blockbusters (28687456) 8.30 A Country Practice (28681036) 7.00 Get Back (84299775) 7.30 Swach On (29670920) 8.00 Rude Heelth (90037433) 235/1920) Sub race reservisions/353/3 9.00 Filat: \$2 Growenor Street (56935307) 11.00 St Elsewhere (54931630) 12.00 Move Cub (66736259) 12.30cm Telse of the Linexpected (549430121 1.00 Close DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00em Under the Umbrate Tree 6.30 Rode and Jim 6.45 Whnte the Poch 7.00 Alackin 7.30 Tex Avery 8.00 Declarus 9.30 Bonkers 9.00 Gunna Beers 9.30 Chip 'n' Date 9.55 Smell Stories 10.00 Sesame St 11.00 Whnte the Poch 11.15 Rode and Jim 1 11.35 Sing Me a Story 12.00 Tots TV 12.30 pen 8's Fur to Learn weh Spot 12.45 Write the Pool 1.00 Searnes 8 2.00 Amezing Animals 2.30 Gummi Bears 3.00 Tale Spot 3.30 Good Troop 4.00 Timon and Pumbas 4.30 Aladum 5.30 Geogo World 7.00 Home Improvement 7.30 Wonder Years 8.00 Fil.Mr Mars Santa Class 9.30 Deve's World 10.00 Close FOX KIDS NETWORK

8.00em Deliv and His Friends 6.30 Billy the 6.00am Delly and His Friends 6.30 Billy the Cat 7.00 Pinoucho 7.30 Power Rangers Zeo 8.00 Beetleborgs 8.30 Masked Rider 9.00 Magic Box 9.30 Ducky the Diagon 10.00 hispector Gadget 10.30 Semural Pizza Cats 11.00 Sweet Velley High 12.00 Aco Ventura 12.30get Casper 1.00 The Tick 1.30 fron Man 2.00 Faritastic Four 2.30 Power Rangers Zeo 3.00 Bestleborgs 3.30 Masked Rider 4.00 Aco Ventura 4.30 Casper 5.00 The Tick 5.30 X Man 6.00 Spicierman 6.30 Sweet Velley High

6.00am Happily Ever After 8.30 Bobby's World 7.00 Spot 7.30 Denns the Menace 8.00 Batmen 8.30 Batmen 9.00 Earthworm Jim 9.30 Formueld the Rendeer 9.45 Romasid the Rendeer 10.00 Oscar's Orchestra 10.30 Fash Gordon 11.00 Imagoud 11.30 Gigantor 12.00 Spirou 12.30 pas Sonic 1.00 Batmen 1.30 At's Time Travellers 2.00 Emogoud 2.30 Fash Gordon 3.00 Sorie 3.30 Earthwarm Jan Gordon 3.00 Sorie 3.30 Earthwarm Jan

CARTOON NETWORK All your favounte cartoons broadcast from 5,00am to 9,00pm, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON 6.00em (Ger Tometoes 6.30 Asabhi Real

Monsters 7.00 Hey Amold 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 Coug 8.30 Neverending Story 9.00 CBBC 10.00 Wimae's House 10.30 Beber 11.00 Megic School Bus 11.30 Benanas in 11.00 Magic School Bus 11.30 Bananas in Pyjernas 12.00 Paddington Bear etc 12.30pm Latte Red Tractor etc 1.00 Dr Sausa 1.30 Latte Bear Stones 2.00 Animal Show 2.30 CBBC 3.30 Rocko/Doug 4.00 Angry Bearters 4.30 Rugnats 5.00 Sater Sister 5.30 Kenan and Kal 6.00 Saterna the Teernage Witch 6.30 Moesha 7.00 Close

12.00pm Swan's Crossing 12.30 Ready or Not 1.00 Madison 1.30 California Dresms 2.00 Saved by the Bell 2.30 Swen's Crossing 3.00 Blast 3.30 Ready or Not 4.00 Saved by the Bell 4.30 USA High 5.00 Hangtime 5.30 California Dresms 6.00 Blast 6.30 Madison 7.00 Hangtime 7.30 tISA High 8.00 Close USA High 8.00 Close CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Cross Wis 5.30 Move on Up 6.00 Family Forumes 6.30 Catchphrase 7.15 The \$64,000 Queston 8.00 Spit Second 8.30 Karache Chellenge 9.15 Winner Talkes All 10.00 Treasure Hunt 11.15 Karacke Chellenge 12.00 Say the Word 12.30am Hart to Hart 1.30 The Big Valley 2.30 Explore 3.30 Allen's First Christmes 4.00 Law Case Seconder 5.00 Semester 4.00 Jaux Sans Frontiers 5.00 Screenshop BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team (4878611) 8.00 Tour of Duly (4898475) 10.00 Red Shoe Daries (580320) 10.46 FILM: Superation (1962) (11643874) 12.35pm Lesie Nelsco's Umbalenced World (1174215) 12.45 Tour of Duly (1291857) 1.45 Red Shoe Daries (5390789) 2.30 FILM: Truck 10720 11124781 4.20 Lesio Torner (1974) (1192418) 4.20 Lesto Nelson's Unbalanced World (85823012)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY 7.00pm Grace Under Fire (9456) 7.30 Roseenne (6814) 8.00 Ellen (8104) 8.20 O/bit (7611) 9.00 Cheers (77949) 9.30 Text (36765) 10.00 Fractor (97388) 10.30 The Kenny Everett Show (99958) 11.00 Geyle's

World (72494) 11.30 Ellen (54659) 12.00 Rossenne (38050) 12.30em Nejristand (98573) 1.00 Scap (55499) 1.30 Taxi (94876) 2.00 Gayle's World (32079) 2.30 Grace Under Fire (11586) 3.00 Frasser (68968) 3.30 The Kerny Everett Show (35165) 4.00 Close THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pat Sightings (3900630) 8.00 FiLM: America 3000 (1995) (12400727) 10.45 The Making of the Rides: Terminator 2— 3D (2889730) 11.00 Friday the 13th 3D (2889/30) 11,00 Prioray Ine Issue (8212475) 12,00 Sightings (8934824) 1,00em The Twitight Zone (9569437) 1,30 Tales of the Unexpected (3302147) 2,00 Dark Shadows (7424418) 2,30 New Affect Hitchcock (7403925) 3,00 Finday the 13th Hitchcock (7403925) 3 (9202857) 4.00 Close HOME & LEISURE

8.00am The Joy of Panting 9.30 Garden Club 10.00 Garden Perty 10.30 New Yankse Workshop 11.00 Andy's Angling Adventures 11.30 Homelime 12.00 The Dicerren 12.30pm Hammer # Home 1.00 Yen Can Cook 1.39 The Restoration Game 2.00 Furnaire on the Mend 2.30 Antiques Trail 3.00 Two's Country 3.30 Home Again DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (3885253) 4.30 Rightine (3814765) 5.00 Ancient Warfors (8032123) 5.30 Beyond 2000 (3805017) 6.00 Eye of the Serpent (8356475) 7.00 Mysterious Universe (BIX9659) Disacter (3815494) 8.00 Mysterious verse (8038307) 8.39 Mysterious Univ [8017814] 9.00 Affur C Clarke: The Visionary (4801949) 10.00 Golden Girls (6048291) 10.00 Eutema Machines (6048611) 11.00 Extreme Machines (804863) 12.00 The Diceman (7287499) 12.30em Wheel Nuts (7898079) 1.00 Desester (9439186) 1,30 Beyond 2000

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 7.00 On Heavenly Wings (8774785) 8.00 New Chimpenzees (8750185) 9.00 Across New Chimpersosas (a/stress) 9.00 Across the Jungle Divide (9897765) 9.30 John Hamson: Explorer (3694494) 10,00 invect-ers in Paradise (8773036) 11,00 Legacy of LSB Leokey (5097456) 12,00 Little Womora (2625234) 1.00mm Close

TRAVEL (cable)

Selen 2.20 No Trucien' Holiday 3.00 Reel World 3.30 Oceania 4.00 Australian Gour-met Tour 4.30 On the Road to the Islands 5.00 Ridge Riders 5.30 Reliving Adventures Across Europe 6.00 Stepping the World 6.30 On Tour 7.00 Great Splendours of the World 8.00 March of March Scatch for Stepping World 11.30 Reel World 12.00 Close THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Hitler's Wer Machine (1121974) 5.00 Lost Civilisations China (2007745) 6.00 Ancient Mysteries (7419123) 7.00 Biography Capone (2572611) 8.00 Close CARLTON FOOD (cable)

12.00pm Food Network Dely 12.30 The Restaurant Show 1.00 Food for Thought 1.30 Twelve Chefs of Christnes 2.00 Christnes at Betlymalce 2.30 Food Net-mork Daly 3.00 Althe and Cooking 3.30 Graham ken's Nitchen 4.00 Aldo's Italian Job 4.30 Chef for a Day 5.00 Close

6.00mm Tiny Living 9.00 Why Me² 9.30 The Gordon Ellioti Show 10.10 Jerry Springer 11.00 The Young and the Restless 11.55 Brookszie 12.25pm Jerry's 1.00 Cheap Chic 1.30 Ready, Steady, Cook 2.05 Hert to Harl 3.00 Live at Three 4.10 Jerry Springer 5.00 Rolote 5.50 Cheap Chic 6.20 Ready. 5,00 Rolonda 5.50 Cheap Chic 6.20 Ready, Sleady, Cook 7.00 Resous 911 7.30 Mysteries, Magac and Miracles 8.00 Adren-etin Junives 9.00 FILM: Web of Decet 10.55 Sex Life 11.30 Mora Sex Life ZEE TV

6.30em Phire Alam 7.00 Jasquan 7.30 Chooma Asina 8.00 Business 8.15 Music 8.30 Rashet 9.00 Manabi 9.30 Out and About 10.00 Tara 11.00 Low Col 11.30 Public Demand 5.00 Alsa Bhi Hot e Hai 5.30 Teen Do Paanch 6,00 Hum Paench April Beat 8.00 News 8.30 Destaan 9.00 Pol Do Pal 10.00 Film Beaton 10.30 Top 10 11.00 Purush Kishetra 12.00 Close MTV

The 24 hour music channel VH-1



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17 1997

THE NEW BOYS LOOKING TO CATCH 🥒 HODDLE'S EYE

Chairman prepares to sell shares

Lee ready to step down in City takeover

FRANCIS LEE, the chairman indicated that he will consider selling his stake in the club, a move that would open the way for a takeover. Rumour has been rife recently that the Nationwide League first division club is the target for a City takeover, and that was confirmed this week when representatives of a merchant bank, believed to be Schroders, visited Maine Road to make a formal

They suggested that the market price is somewhere between £30-£35 million with shares trading at £1.20. The club's directors have been advised that any takeover attempt would need to value the shares at £1.50, giving a price of £45 million.

Lee has become increasing-ly frustrated at Maine Road. Although he is the chairman. he has a holding of around 13 per cent, which means that he can be outvoted by other key shareholders, including Stephen Boler, JD Sports, the eisurewear manufacturers, and Greenall Whitley, the brewing company., should they join forces. JD Sports, in particular, has voiced opposition to Lee's regime. The company, headed by David Makin and John Wardle, has around a 5 per cent stake in City and has demanded a representative on the board

and sweeping changes. That has already seen some of Lee's closest allies step down from the board of directors. David Holt and Colin Barlow, the former managing director, have departed, and John Dunkerley, another director, is likely to follow suit. City player, is joining the board to represent JD Sports'



Lee flew to the Caribbean for a family holiday at the weekend but, before he left, he indicated that he is ready to sell his stake, for which he paid £6 million when he took over from Peter Swales, the previous chairman, in 1994. A club director confirmed yesterday that there was interest from a number of sources and suggested that a formal takeover bid could be announced within a matter of

Mike McDonald, the chair-



Lee: minority shareholding

man of Sheffield United, is one name being linked with City. He attempted to buy the club

have slumped from the FA Carling Premiership to just above the relegation zone of the first division. He has appointed three managers in three years and has failed to provide the funds to mount a

the top flight.

Lee's stake provides only a minority interest in City, but Boler is also thought to be ready to sell his stake, which stands at around 28 per cent. Combined with Lee's holding. would offer a majority

shareholding.

Boler, who is among the top
100 richest men in Britain, is based in South Africa and is not involved in the day-to-day running of the club, despite suggestions that he would provide the finance to buy stake in the club a year ago.

Away from the boardroom at Maine Road yesterday, it appeared that Uwe Rösler, the German striker, is set to leave the club, with Everton and Sunderland expressing an interest, Rösler's contract expires this summer when we will become a free agent, and City have decided that they should get a fee for him now.

There are also suggestions that Frank Clark, the manager, is finally prepared to listen to offers for Georgi Kinkladze, the Georgia midfield player. with Everton again being suggested as a possible buyer. Across the city, Manchester United have received a £1 million offer for Jordi Cruyff. the Holland forward, from Deportivo La Coruña, the Spanish club. Cruyff has failed to make an impact since arriving at Old Traford from Barcelona a year and a half ago, and it seems as though the deal could go through

from Swales before Lee was successful in his acrimonious attempt to oust Swales. Mc-Donald has retained a desire to buy into City and is holding talks with Makin and Wardle to buy their stake. A merchant bank has been

linked with a possible takeover, as a front for venture capitalists, who see City as ripe for a takeover. Even though the club is valued at around £35 million, there is the potential to expand in the short to medium term. Within the next few weeks, the club is expected to announce plans to become tenants at the stadium which is being built for the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002. The sta-dium will hold 50,000 spectators and provide state-of-the-

Since Lee took over, City sustained attempt to return to

> the England Under 21 team that he has no intention of slamming it shut just yet. Certainly not on the likes of Michael Owen and Rio Ferdinand, two of the country's most precocious teenagers whose hopes of travelling to France in the summer, the

and realistically by the Engthese young players, like Owen and Ferdinand, to really hit me in the eye." Hoddle said yesterday. It has nothing to do with whether you are young or old, that has always

been my philosophy. "One part of the job tonight is for the under 21 team to try and get further. Another is

ONE of Glenn Hoddle's fa-

vourite phrases is "the door to

the World Cup is wide open".

His presence at Carrow Road

tonight should provide ample

reassurance to the players of

stuff of their own schoolboy

dreams not so many months ago, are now discussed freely

with the World Cup in mind. It is easy to forget that it was There are no guarantees for We have to get that final 22 absolutely spot on and we will be watching a lot of kids over the next few months." So while the setting may be Norwich City's ground to-night, it is against a backdrop of the World Cup finals that.

Owen will make his under-21 debut and Ferdinand will try to strengthen his claim as the sort of assured defender that Overturning a 2-0 first leg deficit and qualifying for the last eight of the European

championship is the superficial target against Greece, but it is the bigger picture that fascinates, the progression of English teenage talent under put his faith in youth.

Scottish clubs set their terms for breakaway

SCOTLAND'S leading ten clubs, who are intent on establishing their own premiership next season, were last night told by the Scottish League first division teams that they will demand an immediate premiership of 12 clubs from next season before they give their blessing to the

breakaway. They are also understood to be seeking compensation of a minimum £2.5 million each year for the next 20 years to be The first division clubs will now present the package to their colleagues in the second and third divisions before embarking on talks with the premier division clubs.

Partick Thistle, the Glasgow club that is bottom of the first division and has debts of £2 million, was yesterday given a two-month stay of execution

not always so. Far from being a stepping stone to senior level, the under-21 side was once a twilight zone where the likes of Gary Owen, the for-mer Manchester City and West Bromwich Albion midfield player, could amass 22 and then disappear altogether from the England reckoning.

Heskey, Duberry, Ferdinand and Owen are among the under-21 players hoping to impress Hoddle and press their World Cup claims

Hoddle keen on youth movement

Matt Dickinson looks at some of the young pretenders with

Now the best young players find themselves invited to train with the senior squad, a privilege already bestowed on Owen. The Liverpool striker celebrated his eighteenth birthday on Sunday, but no one doubts that he will take the next step up in his remarkable ascent of the footballing ladder towards becoming a finisher of Alan Shearer's

That may take some years yet, but Owen is leaving little to chance, employing the same agent, boot sponsor and dead-pan, interview style of the injured England captain.

He has learnt, though, this season that his youth is no protection from the behemoths that inhabit defences in the FA Carling Premiership, and at Highbury recently he was mercilessly battered by

Tony Adams. It is punishment he has responded to largely by scoring more and more goals, but his retaliation took on a more sinister edge earlier this season when he was sent off playing for England Under-

ambitions to press their claims for a place in England's plans ceived no protection against constant kicking and holding. His uncharacteristic rashness cost him an appearance

in the first leg of this tie, when England struggled badly on a poor pitch, but Owen claims to "It was an unfortunate thing that happened," he said. "I didn't think I deserved to go but it was still a stupid thing to do. I think any player can lose their cool under pressure and get frustrated when you are

anything about it. You have got to learn to put up with it. Perhaps when efenders see you are small they think I will not be able to handle it but I am not going to

being dragged back and kicked the referee is not doing

in defence, Ferdinand, al-

when he made a typically mature appearance as substitute against Cameroon last month, is likely to be partnered in defence by Michael Duberry, of Chelsea, recently restored to fitness and now pushing for senior

recognition.
"It is just like a club set-up." Peter Taylor, coach of the under-21 said, said, "These lads are in the reserves trying to get into the first team and they know they have a chance. Obviously getting into a World Cup squad is not easy for any player but they have

that success will mean a stern test of his squad's maturity in the quarter finals. The draw paired them with Germany.

GLAND UNDER 21 (3.5-2: probable): Envisi AND UNDER-21 (3-5-2 probable; 8 Wingin (paword) — M Dubleny (Chatana), R Fertilinand (West Hern United), R Science: (Aston Villa) — M Hall (powerly CBI). F Lampard (West Ham United), J Carragher (Uniterpool), S Haighes (Assersi), D Graff-ville (Chestes) — M Oven (Unispool), E Healtey (Excester Ctly).

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against Yugoslavia, his Warne's humour wearing thin By SIMON WILDE

ACROSS

- 1 Fit closely, violated (anag.)
- 5 Exchange (4) 9 Make sense as part of whole (4,4.5)
- 10 Sharp pain, emotion (4) 11 Assyrian capital, Jonah destination (7)
 - 13 Sheen; glory (6) 15 Title of German (esp Bill) (6)
- 18 Pablo -, Cubist artist (7) 20 Composed: not too hot (4) 23 Fairground slide; fast and
- 24 Scots dagger (4)
- 25 Principles of judgment (8)
- 22 Opera solo (4)

No 1279

DOWN

Stapid (as a brush) (4)

Full width; stretch across (4)

12 Slovenly, negligent (8)

14 Of this world (not the next) (7)

19 Killed; swing heavily round

3 Firing device (7)

4 Chant pro

Quays (7)

16 Very old (7)

17 Working cat (6)

- **SOLUTION TO NO 1278** ACROSS: 1 Eisteddfod 8 Popular 9 Chain 10 Role 11 Uncouple 13 Bucket 15 Quango 17 Ridgeway 18 Lore 21 Evict 22 Quicken 23 Hall of Fame
- DOWN: 2 Impel 3 Tile 4 Daring 5 Factorum 6 Deadpan 7 Anne Boleyn 8 Pork barrel 12 Pedestal 14 Caddish 16 Banquo 19 Oakum 20 Jiff

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ENGLAND'S cricketers have been try-ing for four years to find a way of rattling Shane Warne -- but the answer may now be at hand. Far from being infallible, as many suspected, the demon Australia leg spinner has two weak spots, it seems. One is a fondness for food; the other, an

unwillingness to discuss his waistline. The second led to Warne being bowled very publicly, neck and crop yesterday in a Melbourne eaterie he part-owns. The world's most easily recognisable cricketer had been prompted to host a press conference (one thing for which he unquestionably has only a modest appe-tite) in order to unveil his waxwork double for Madame Tussaud's. It was a move that was to choke on itself.

Having told the gathered media to feel free to ask questions. Warne was asked if he preferred the shape of the wax image. which appeared to resemble a Warne who had spent several weeks on the Lawson diet (Nigel, not Geoff). Clearly irritated. Warne snapped: "That's why I don't answer any questions from you blokes. That's it, you've ruined it ... thanks very much." And with that. Warne stalked out of the room.

Familiar with performing in the field for hours on end and usually cool under pressure with a ball in his hand, he had left the podium after just one minute. It was a hit, a palpable hit.

In fact. Warne's midriff bulge has become a matter of concern not only to himself since he returned from a tour of England three months ago. Only last

week, Geoff Marsh, the Australia coach, asked him to start monitoring his diet. With the festive season approaching, this is a stern challenge.

As Australia's most consistent matchinner, Warne has long been a target for gibes from opposing supporters not slow to feed the "fat boy" image — not least in England last summer. But for any sports-man with a tendency to tubbiness, this sort of thing goes with the territory, as



Double helping: Warne poses with his waxwork dummy

Gatting). "Tubs" (Mark Taylor) and "Sumo" (Merv Hughes, a big friend of Warne's) would all confirm.

By and large they have ridden the jokes, from the who are all-the pic chants to the towels-up-shirts impersonations, with good humour, including Warne himself — until now. The turning point may have been a recent incident in a oneday match in Sydney when his old foe, Darryl Cullinan, of South Africa, sent him packing to the pavilion with the words "Go and deflate yourself, you

Warne, 28, has an unusual physiq-He possesses massively powerful shoul-ders, forearms and hands and relatively spindly lower legs — the result of an accident as a child in which he broke both legs. While recuperating, he pushed himself around in a small cart with his hands. When he was trying to establish himself as a cricketer. Warne had a liking for junk food and it was only when he returned for a second spell to the Australian Cricket Academy after a dismal first Test appearance that he tackled his youthful weight problem in

Unless he can take drastic remedial action. Warne may come to regret his decision to turn down lucrative offers to play county cricket in England next year in favour of spending time with his young family. Five months of home cooking sounds like the last thing be

